

Hotly contested primary nets victory
Virginia will have its first openly gay state legislator when Adam Ebbin takes office in '04.
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Gay in the SPCA
Daniel Crain takes the helm of San Francisco institution.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 25 • 19 June 2003

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Canada allows gay marriage

by Cynthia Laird

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced Tuesday, June 17 that the country will change its law to allow same-sex marriage, joining Belgium and the Netherlands as the only countries where gay and lesbian couples can legally wed.

According to the Associated Press, Chrétien said the new law would be drafted within weeks and submitted to the Supreme Court of Canada for review, then put to a vote in Parliament.

The announcement means the government decided against appealing recent court rulings that declared the nation's definition of marriage as unconstitutional because it specified the union of a man and a woman. An Ontario appeals court last week declared that wording invalid, changing it to a union between two people.

"There is an evolution of society," Chrétien said in making the announcement, according to AP. He added that the law would allow religious the right to decide what marriages should be sanctified.

Dozens of gay and lesbian couples have obtained marriage licenses in the week since the court ruling. ▶

Stop AIDS on defensive again

by Matthew S. Bajko

In the latest round between the Stop AIDS Project versus the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the San Francisco agency once again finds itself on the defensive, trying to stave off the latest attempt by Republican lawmakers to question its work and cut off its funding.

No matter the outcome of this newest clash, AIDS agencies across the country will feel the ramifications. In a letter obtained by the Bay Area Reporter, CDC director Dr. Julie Gerberding states not only her objections to the programs Stop AIDS holds but also outlines how she intends to ratchet up oversight of all agencies federally funded to do HIV prevention.

The latest allegations against Stop AIDS are based on three workshops the agency held in April: "In Our Prime: Men for Hire" which addressed guidelines for safe and friendly relations with escorts; "Bootylicious" which discussed ways of improving anal sex; and "Oral

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Danene / PhotoGraphics



Rainbow across Key West

Gilbert Baker's giant 1.25-mile-long rainbow flag was unfurled down the length of Key West's Duval Street with the help of about 2,000 volunteers on Sunday, June 15 as part of the Florida city's PrideFest event. Baker, who watched the event with tears, was presented with a key to the city. Baker dipped one end of the flag into the Gulf of Mexico, while PrideFest organizers and community leaders dipped the other end into the Atlantic Ocean, making the flag a sea-to-sea symbol of pride and diversity. Baker told the Bay Area Reporter that he has shipped a one-quarter mile section to San Francisco for the June 29 Pride Parade. "It was an incredible moment," Baker said of last Sunday's event.

Volunteer your pride and remembrance at pink triangle installation

by Zak Szymanski

We are proud that Berlin has made good progress in becoming a city of tolerance," said a recent letter on behalf of openly gay Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit. "At the same time we are aware of the fact that our joint efforts must be continued to achieve equal rights and respect for all people."

The correspondence was sent to the local group Friends of the Pink Triangle, whose annual 200-foot installation serves as a reminder of the organized hatred of the Holocaust. San Francisco's pink triangle — now in its eighth year — graces the top of Twin Peaks during the city's world-famous Pride weekend, and can be seen from as far as 20 miles away.

The pink triangle goes up Saturday, June 28, from 7-10 a.m., and volunteers are needed to make this vision a reality. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided, and volunteers need only bring a hammer and their dedication to the cause. Volunteers will also be needed on Sunday, June 29, to dismantle the project, from 5-8:30 p.m. Volunteers do not need to commit to a minimum number of hours; all help is welcome and appreciated.

70th anniversary

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the rise of Adolf Hitler's power and the poli-



The pink triangle displayed on Twin Peaks during a recent Pride weekend. Volunteers are needed for this year's installation on Saturday, June 28.

cies that led to the creation of the pink triangle symbol and increased violence toward gays. On January 30, 1933, Hitler's government banned all homosexual organizations. In May of that year the Institute for Sexual Science in Berlin was attacked and thousands of books from its library were burned. Between 1933 and 1945 an estimated 100,000 people were arrested for violating Paragraph 175, which prohibited "lewd acts" between men. Up to 15,000 homosexuals were then sent to concentration camps.

Hitler's regime used triangles to identify members of populations deemed undesirable, including Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, immi-

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Can Thom Lynch save the center?

by Joe Dignan

Thom Lynch, the new executive director of San Francisco's LGBT Community Center, starts work on Monday, June 23, and will step into a center reeling from fiscal troubles, lawsuits with the building contractor, and fewer staff members than when the center opened in March 2002.

Does he have what it takes to bring the center out of a \$642,000 deficit and back on its feet?

Members of the center's board of directors, colleagues, and community leaders think he does.

The openly gay Lynch, 43, had been the deputy director at Project Open Hand. Executive Director Tom Nolan recommended him for the center job after being contacted by an executive search firm.

"I don't know if I've met a better manager," said Nolan.

Lynch worked at Project Open Hand for eight years, and started in the food warehouse. Even though Lynch has no formal business training, he worked his way up to deputy director. He was responsible for about \$7 million of Project Open Hand's \$9 million annual budget.

In his new position at the center, Lynch page 22 ▶

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Alleged chat room con man stung

by Ed Walsh

His 9.5 inch penis was one of the few things that Erik Abegglen didn't lie about, according to Edward Grudus, his alleged victim. The eye-catching marketing tool was featured prominently on Abegglen's Men4Now.com profile.

Last week, Grudus turned the tables on Abegglen, an alleged chat room con man, by setting up an impromptu sting operation that resulted in his arrest.

Police arrested Abegglen late Tuesday night, June 10, in Grudus's San Francisco home. He was charged with stealing Grudus's credit card.

Grudus first met Abegglen during an online chat a day earlier. Grudus invited Abegglen to his apartment. The two spent the night. A third man that Abegglen met online agreed to come over and join the pair around 11 a.m. But Abegglen and the third man left, after Grudus told them that he was tired and just wanted to be alone. Abegglen returned later that afternoon, and left again before returning around 11 p.m.

when he was arrested.

After Abegglen left in the afternoon, Grudus phoned a friend who advised him to "run, not walk" from the man, explaining that Abegglen ripped him off.

"Something just felt wrong," said Grudus, who explained that he initially became concerned when Abegglen went "way overboard" to ingratiate himself with him, even once leaving his apartment to buy him CDs. Grudus said that ironically the CDs were purchased with his stolen credit card.

Grudus, a registered nurse, said that Abegglen racked up a little more than \$100 in charges on his card before he was arrested and alleged that Abegglen also stole his Palm Pilot and a \$400 leather jacket.

On the night he was arrested, Grudus nabbed Abegglen by arranging for his friend to hide in another room and call police after Abegglen phoned to say he was on his way over. When police arrived, Abegglen reacted with stunned shock, Grudus said.

"I never saw anyone's eyes get so big and the blood just drained from his face," he said. "And he confessed to everything. That sur-

prised me.

"I think there was a part of him that wanted to get caught," Grudus added. "If you had just stolen someone's credit card, would you have gone back?"

Grudus told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he's certain that Abegglen has ripped off many more people who were reluctant to report it.

"Every other person I spoke with knows him or knows someone who has had an experience with him," Grudus noted, adding that his roommate told him he was also ripped off by Abegglen.

Abegglen was released from jail last Thursday, June 12. San Francisco Police Inspector Robert Lee told the *B.A.R.* that he had a prior criminal conviction, possibly from Texas, but he didn't have any details about that crime. Lee said that if convicted on the charge of stealing Grudus's credit card, Abegglen will likely get probation and not have to serve any prison time. Lee said that Grudus's allegation that his jacket and Palm Pilot were stolen couldn't be proven because Grudus did not see him take those items.

Grudus said he hoped other page 22 ▶

You've Got Friends in Palm Springs!



SFPD turns up heat on Castro traffic violators

by Ed Walsh

San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Duffy is spearheading an effort of "intensive enforcement" of traffic violations in the Castro that has resulted in 59 traffic tickets being issued over the first two weeks of this month.

Duffy, who represents District 8, said the effort will continue. "We need to keep the pressure on," the supervisor said. "This is a neighborhood, not a speedway."

The three-legged intersection at Noe, Market, and 16th streets has been the main target of the increased enforcement but the police focus has also included other trouble spots including Market and Dolores and Market and Church streets.

San Francisco Police Traffic Division Captain Mike Yalon told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the most common cause of pedestrian accidents is jaywalking. Yalon said the increased enforcement includes citing pedestrians. Yalon echoed Duffy's concerns about the Noe, Market and 16th intersection. He noted that it is one of 20 citywide cited in the Operation Safe Crossing program as being dangerous.

Duffy said he's open and eager for feedback and he plans a workshop in the fall to discuss solutions to help make the Castro safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. Duffy said those interested in the issue can e-mail his office at StaffDuffy@sfgov.org. ▶

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COMMUNITY NEWS

City set to dedicate Pink Triangle Park

by Matthew S. Bajko

After years of planning and debate, a memorial to commemorate gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders persecuted by the Nazis will be officially dedicated in the Castro on Monday.

Named Pink Triangle Park, the 15 granite pillars placed in a triangle formation is the first permanent, freestanding memorial in the United States to recognize not only those men and women who were punished and killed in concentration camps during World War II but those who also suffered after the war due to discrimination.

After the Nazis' defeat, the LGBT community continued to be made second-class citizens, and under Paragraph 175 of the penal code were forced to finish out their prison terms.

Situated on a forgotten patch of dirt at the intersection of Market and 17th streets, the memorial is the work of Eureka Valley residents who came together to turn the small plot of land into a place for reflection and contemplation of the struggle for gay rights.

"Such a memorial standing at the entrance to the Castro signifies how far we have come in 58 years," said Gustavo Serina, who as president of the Eureka Valley

Promotion Association helped spearhead the project. "It reminds people of where we've been and serves as a reminder that any time any group is marginalized for inherent characteristics it is a threat to all groups."

EVPA and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Beautification teamed together to make the memorial a reality. Designed by artist Robert Bruce, a founding member of the Stop AIDS Project, and Susan Martin, a graduate of the California College of Arts and Crafts, the memorial's base is purposefully oriented toward Harvey Milk Plaza and its large rainbow flag.

The artists, who had never met before and were introduced through a friend, took inspiration from Claude Monet's garden at Giverny and the formation of the United Nations in San Francisco after the war in designing the memorial.

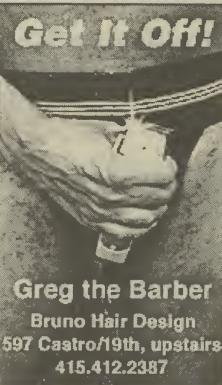
"We wanted the sculpture to be contemplative. We wanted to mourn the dead (past), to celebrate the living (present), and to hope for those to come (future)," reads a statement by the artists on the park's Web site.

San Francisco's park and memorial joins other remembrances of the LGBT persecution under the Nazis in Amsterdam and cities throughout Germany. A memorial in Berlin is currently being built.

The dedication will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, June 23 at the site. The ceremony will include remarks by Mayor Willie Brown and LGBT elected officials and a performance by the San Francisco Concert Chorale.

Between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Monday the city will close the portion of 17th Street adjacent to the park for the ceremony.

For more information about the park and memorial, visit www.pinktrianglepark.org.



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Equality California hosts Pride events

by Cynthia Laird

Hoping to increase visibility for California's LGBT civil rights movement, Equality California is sponsoring several Pride events throughout San Francisco this month.

EQCA, formerly the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, is hoping to build support for three bills currently in the state Legislature: AB17, the Equal Benefits in State Contracting bill; AB196, the Gender Non-Discrimination bill;

and AB205, the Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act.

"Pride is a time for our community to come together and celebrate our achievements," said Geoffrey Kors, EQCA executive director. "We invite everyone who supports Equality California and our work on domestic partnership rights to volunteer and join us at Pride."

EQCA will host a Pride work party on Monday, June 23, from 5-9 p.m., at its office, located at 2370 Market Street in the Castro. Volunteers are needed to help cre-

ate materials to increase visibility of EQCA's legislative agenda. Food and drinks will be provided for those who RSVP to volunteer@eqca.org.

On Tuesday, June 24, at noon, EQCA is sponsoring "25 Years of Civil Rights History: Raising the Pride Flag at City Hall" to kick off Pride Week. The event will celebrate the LGBT civil rights movement in San Francisco from 1978-2003. Mayor Willie Brown and other guests – including Pride officials – will raise the rainbow flag

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Carmichael court petition denied

by Cynthia Laird

Only gay prison rights activist Brian Patrick Carmichael's petition for review in connection with a misdemeanor conviction on a battery charge was denied by the California Supreme Court last month, clearing the way for him to begin serving a one-year jail sentence as soon as this week.

Carmichael was ordered to appear before Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Alden E. Danner Friday, June 20 at 9 a.m. for "execution of judgment," Carmichael said in a June 17 tele-

phone interview from New York City, where he currently resides.

"We're planning to ask for more time based on medical concerns," Carmichael said.

The case against Carmichael stems from an incident that occurred at San Jose International Airport in September 2000 as Carmichael stepped off an airplane. Police were waiting at the airport to talk to Carmichael, who while on the airplane in Dallas, got into an argument with a passenger who wanted the seat Carmichael had been told was reserved for his severely ill brother, who has since died.

After Carmichael got off the

airplane, police retrieved a bag from the plane containing his brother's medications. Carmichael attempted to open the bag, despite officers telling him not to. During a scuffle that followed, he fell on a police officer, who later reported that he suffered an injury.

While at Valley Medical Center following his arrest, Carmichael told the attending physician he was HIV-positive; another police officer overheard the conversation, and events spiraled out of control, as the district attorney's office proceeded with a third strike prosecution. Carmichael has previous felony convictions.

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The Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC) is a non-profit organization that is committed to applying the principles of harm reduction to lessen the incidence of HIV infection, disease progression, and homelessness among residents of the Tenderloin neighborhood in San Francisco.

TARC has been located at 187 Golden Gate Ave. in the Tenderloin since 1990 and operates an array of programs that are designed to support individuals in making any positive change in their lives.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gays and allies say no to Davis recall effort

by Cynthia Laird

Only gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) was joined by a diverse group of San Francisco residents and activists Friday, June 13 as he denounced the Republican-led recall drive aimed at Governor Gray Davis.

Acknowledging that Davis, the Democratic governor who was narrowly re-elected to his second term last November, was not popular, Leno nevertheless emphasized that a recall would be bad for the state.

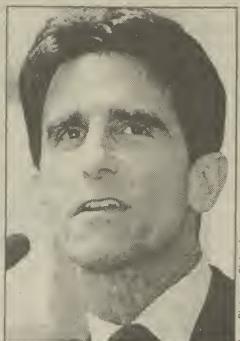
"I want to discourage Californians from signing on to the recall," Leno said as a group of about 50 people stood beside him on the steps of San Francisco City Hall. "Yes, the governor's approval ratings are low, but a recall is not good for California."

On Saturday, June 14, conservative Congressman Darrell Issa (R-Vista), officially launched his gubernatorial bid. Issa has largely bankrolled the recall effort, which is still in the signature gathering phase. About 900,000 valid signatures must be collected by September 2 to force the recall election. To date, Issa has reportedly spent about \$800,000 of his own money toward the recall effort.

Recall proponents say they are close to getting the number of signatures needed. The secretary of state's office must certify the signatures after they are submitted.

Leno launched into a list of things Issa opposes, including a woman's right to choose and a ban on offshore oil drilling. Additionally, Issa strongly supported Proposition 22, the Knight initiative, which defines marriage between a man and a woman. That initiative was approved by voters in March 2000. According to a transcript of a television commercial, reprinted in the *Orange County Register* in January 2000, Issa said, "Americans are fair-minded and respect diversity of beliefs. But there is a huge difference between respecting a person's beliefs and endorsing gay marriage. A yes vote on Proposition 22 will send a clear message about the importance of strong, traditional families. It is something the Sacramento politicians should have done long ago. Please join me and vote yes on Proposition 22."

"We've got a serious budget crisis in California and this recall does



Assemblyman Mark Leno at anti-recall rally.

nothing to address it," Leno said.

He also noted that if there is a special election for the recall, which could take place this fall, a small percentage of voters would decide whether Davis should keep his job, and if not, who would replace him. Leno said that if a special election is held this fall, low voter turnout would result in a small percentage of voters determining who would be governor.

August Longo, regional director of the California Democratic Party and president of the FDR Democratic Club, agreed with Leno.

"I hope voters are smarter than to be duped. Californians have rejected the right wing. California needs to stay the course; California needs to support the governor," Longo said.

Openly gay District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty also spoke at the rally.

"Those of us that stand here are fighting for democracy and fighting for San Francisco and California. This is the worst thing – it's distracting. This is a dastardly thing and on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I'm proud to be here and we're going to beat this thing," Dufty said.

Randy Shaw, director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, said his organization has been working with Leno on tenant legislation. "Not one bill has gotten a single Republican vote," Shaw said. "Mr. Issa will vote against tenants every time."

Local LGBT political leaders, including Robert Haaland, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club; Debra Walker, a former president of the club; and Rich Kowalewski, co-chair of the Alice B.

Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, also spoke out against the recall.

Haaland said that he was watching television news last week when a report was aired about the recall drive.

"There was a recall rally, and signs stating 'Gays are unnatural.' That was a wake-up call to me and I hope it's a wake-up call to the LGBT community – what's behind this recall," Haaland said.

"Don't sign it," Walker said of the recall petitions circulating around the state.

It was pointed out that some conservatives, like *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Debra Saunders, are against the recall, calling it a "sour grapes" effort.

"Californians need to take this seriously," Leno said. "I think 'sour grapes' says it all." ▼

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OPEN FORUM

Consider resigning, governor

With the increasing likelihood that state Republicans will gather enough signatures to force a recall of Democratic Governor Gray Davis, and with Davis's own approval ratings tanking, we have been thinking long and hard about the various scenarios that could play out in a recall race – few of them bode particularly well for the LGBT community.

Conservative Congressman Darrell Issa's ability so far to spend at least \$800,000 of his own money in an effort to get the nearly 900,000 certified signatures required to hold the recall shows that he is willing to go to great lengths to become California's governor – in spite of criticism from Democrats and even some members of his own party that the effort is no more than "sour grapes" on the part of some GOPers who are unhappy that Davis won re-election last November. But should Issa prevail, the state would be thrown into the hands of the Republicans, and Issa is of the extreme conservative variety. The community could say goodbye to future legislation that would advance equality for all.

If actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, also a Republican, enters the recall race (and he has been sending strong signals that he is interested), his name recognition alone would trump that of Issa and virtually every other possible candidate that could enter the free-for-all. Schwarzenegger, of course, also has plenty of money and is coming off the victory for an after school program ballot measure he pushed last fall.

This week, three high-profile Democratic state officeholders – Attorney General Bill Lockyer, Treasurer Phil Angelides, and Controller Steve Westly – each took themselves out of contention as possible replacement candidates should the recall make the ballot. Any of the three would have had a tough time raising the money necessary to compete with the wealthy Issa or the widely known Schwarzenegger.

That pretty much leaves the state's most popular politician, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante as the remaining Democrats who could appear on a recall ballot, on which voters would be asked: a) should Davis be recalled? and b) if so, who should replace him?

In one fell swoop, however, Davis could make the whole recall question die a quick

death. He could resign from office, handing the reins over to Bustamante. Think of it: Davis could get his revenge on the Republicans (Issa's hundreds of thousands of dollars would be money wasted), and we would get a governor who couldn't possibly be any worse than this one.

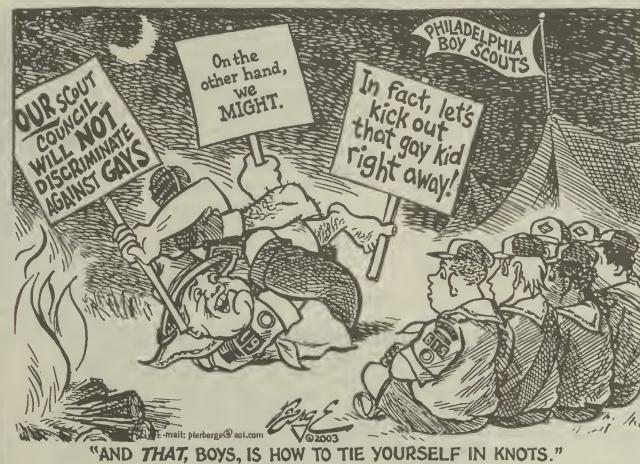
While Davis has signed legislation expanding the equal rights of gays and lesbians, he has balked at similar legislation affecting the transgender community, and he has refused to consider parole for at least two openly gay inmates who deserve it, Robert Rosenkrantz and Mark Smith. Davis is opposed to gay marriage, and, more than a year after we interviewed him, has not offered support for civil unions.

But it is Davis's utter lack of leadership when faced with a crisis that has placed him on the verge of a recall election. We don't believe he has ever recovered from the energy crisis; instead of taking charge of the situation, he panicked. Virtually nothing was done until the lights started going off, and then he negotiated expensive energy

contracts that cost the state plenty. His reaction to California's whopping \$35 billion budget deficit is not much better. In short, there's no leadership, which is too bad, because Davis has spent his entire political career running to be governor, but now that he is governor, he doesn't exhibit leadership skills when Californians need someone in charge.

What Davis does best is attack the opposition. He did it brilliantly during last year's primary when he knocked moderate Republican Richard Riordan out of the gubernatorial race. He did it again in the fall against neophyte Bill Simon, though Simon helped seal his own fate by running one of the worst campaigns in recent memory. The problem facing Davis now, however, is that if he is faced with a recall, he would have to switch tactics and defend himself – the recall is about him, and whether he should remain governor.

If the recall qualifies for the ballot, Davis should put the good of the state ahead of himself and resign. We don't want to see the governorship handed to the Republicans in a special recall election. ▼

Editorial

The only party worth going to

by Michael Alterman, Jasmine Elliott, Mark Sanchez, Emily Drennen, Jerry Threet, Paul Quick, Nick Duggan, Selwyn Jones, and Mark Barnes

Ya gotta give 'em hope!" Harvey Milk proclaimed this mantra over and over during his time in politics in San Francisco. Milk understood that the most important function of politics was a harbinger of hope. As we near Pride 2003, a celebration of Harvey's legacy, where are we finding hope in a time when faith in a more just and democratic world seems to dim? One place where more and more of us are finding hope is in the San Francisco Green Party.

As Pride approaches, we are proud to announce the formation of San Francisco Lavender Greens. We are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer Greens organized to promote LGBTIQ issues within the Green Party, as well as to publicize the strong support of the Green Party for LGBTIQ liberation. We hope you will join us in supporting the only party to fully support LGBTIQ people – the Green Party. As local, state, and national politics continue to reveal the moral bankruptcy of the two main national parties, it becomes ever more clear that the Green Party is the only party worth going to.

So how does the Green Party connect to your lives? In many, very basic ways. The Green Party has taken a strong stand in favor of social justice, feminism, and respect for diversity among the party's 10 key values. The Green Party unambiguously supports your right to marry, to partner do-

mestically, to adopt children, to own property together, and to work and live without fear of discrimination or violence. Green candidate for California governor, Peter Camejo, strongly endorsed civil unions last year as Republican Bill Simon and Democrat Gray Davis opposed them. Locally, San Francisco Greens helped elect Mark Sanchez, a queer Latino Green, to the Board of Education in 2000, providing that important body with its only LGBTIQ commissioner to make key policy affecting our youth and our schools.

The SF Green Party's commitment to the value of diversity is reflected in Green elected office holders Matt Gonzalez, Latino President of the Board of Supervisors;

Sánchez, the gay Latino school board member; and Sarah Lipson, one of only two women on the seven-member school board.

The Green Party also has been at the forefront of activism supporting peace and opposing the Bush administration's policies of war and aggression. Our party is a party of principle, and one of the basic Green organizing principles is that of nonviolence. The LGBT community understands on a basic level the fundamental importance of nonviolence and that is one reason the Green Party feels so welcoming to those of us who are LGBTIQ. In contrast to the Democratic and Republican parties, the Green Party took a clear stand for peace and against the war on Iraq. While Bush pushed naked aggression, and even Democrat Nancy Pelosi voiced muted support, the Green Party spoke from its core principles

for peace.

Finally, the Green Party works within a consensus-based process and believes in the principle of consensus in making decisions. Underlying this approach is a belief that all people hold a piece of the puzzle, that all views deserve to be heard, and that only by including all voices at the table and listening to all viewpoints can the best solution to any problem be found. That means the Green Party not only respects diversity of identity but also respects diversity of viewpoint, as well. It's the only way real grassroots democracy will ever flourish.

Lavender Greens will be marching together in the Pride Parade and will have a table with information about the party at the celebration on Sunday, June 29. Following San Francisco Pride, some of our goals will include raising money to help fund a memorial to Harvey Milk in City Hall; pushing for the state of California to grant LGBT couples the full rights enjoyed by married heterosexuals; organizing for police accountability reform; and enactment of a San Francisco minimum wage. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at the Green Party headquarters at 1028 A Howard Street (between 6th and 7th streets).

Come on out and join the Lavender Greens! Rekindle your hope by joining the "only party worth going to!" See you at Pride! ▼

Guest Opinion

For more information, go to www.sfgreenparty.org.

LETTERS

Good riddance

The news of Michael Savage's departure from KSFO should be cause for celebration in the GLBT community ("Savage and KSFO part ways," June 5). This is the man who constantly characterizes lesbians as "mean-faced and clipped-haired," stating that "two women raising a child together is child abuse." As director of the hate radio project for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, I have listened to and taped Mr. Savage for eight years as he has demonized our community, calling us "perverts," and "sickos" on a daily basis. He spent an entire three-hour program ridiculing transsexuals and dispensing incredible misinformation about the sex-change operation. He has stated that "AIDS activists are terrorists who will spread the disease if we cut their funding."

In short, Savage is the Fred Phelps of radio. He has polluted our airwaves of the Bay Area long enough; we are well rid of a major enemy of our community.

Robert Shultz
San Francisco

Massage laws

Thank you for your article highlighting some of the problems faced by professional massage practitioners in San Francisco ("Hands across California," May 29). As co-chair of the SF Coalition of Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork Practitioners, our organization has long been aware of the need to update San Francisco's massage ordinance. The current ordinance was originally developed nearly three decades ago to regulate massage parlors and "adult entertainment" massage practitioners. The fact that the ordinance is part of the Police Code clearly reflects that intent.

I would like to alert your readers to a revised ordinance that was introduced by Supervisor Chris Daly on April 3. The new legislation moves the oversight of massage businesses and practitioners from the jurisdiction of the Police Department to the Department of Public Health. We feel that this will be a major step in inhibiting the adversarial posture that the police have traditionally taken toward the massage community.

DPH is committed to legally making room for the therapeutic massage and bodywork community in San Francisco while, at the same time, supporting the real health needs of adult entertainment massage practitioners.

Even though it doesn't resolve all of the problems inherent in local massage regulation, zoning issues being prominent among them, this legislation will bring attention to an issue that has long been ignored. The new ordinance and an analysis of all of its changes can be viewed on our Web site at www.sfor-dinance.com. We ask that your readers educate themselves and then contact their supervisors and encourage them to support this innovative proposal.

David Palmer
San Francisco

Center should take message to people

I was pleased to read the challenge placed in regards to funding for the LGBT Community Center ("Apathy reigns?," Editorial, June 5). As board president at the beginning of the Positive Resource Center fiscal crisis nearly a year and a half ago, one of the prudent steps the Board of Directors took was not to be shy about taking our message to the streets. These efforts included one-on-one interviews with the B.A.R. in the PRC offices, on multiple occasions throughout the crisis (which it was).

It was the belief and the feeling among all members of the PRC board that if the community knew the state of the agency's crisis, in the end, good would prevail and San Franciscans would not let PRC die an ugly and untimely death.

It is dangerous, sharing with people that you are in a financial straits. It is scary to say to the world, "We need help." It can be very humbling to acknowledge that from payroll to payroll, the life of the agency is at stake.

From community leaders to elected officials to the many friends of PRC, as you know, PRC is still here and the agency is still proudly providing benefits counseling and job placement services.

Since the community center's initial development campaign I have not taken part in any activity for or at the community center. I have only once briefly stepped into the lobby.

I know for a fact that I am one of many people in San Francisco who has not taken advantage of the center, that would be well served to understand more and feel more empathy for its overall success. Writing a check does not make me feel differently about the center, only that I have given money.

I challenge the LGBT Community Center to reach out. I challenge the leadership to help me and the many others who are not currently using the center to understand why I am missing out on the wonderful aspects of the center.

I want you to survive. I want you to be here for a

long, long time.

Mark J. Murphy
San Francisco

Cheu deserves Pride Award

In much of the United States, television reporting is a source of anti-LGBT sentiment, perpetuating stereotypes and fostering bias against our community. At best, most television stations in the U.S. simply ignore our community, keeping us invisible. How lovely, then, that a major Bay Area media outlet, KQED-TV, includes the LGBT community in its "Local Heroes" awards program. Each year at this time, the station recognizes a select few members of our community for their commitment and contribution to our community. This not only acknowledges the work of the individuals singled out for this honor; it makes our community visible in a wonderfully positive way.

I am disappointed in the B.A.R.'s coverage of the KQED's Local Heroes Awards this year ("Ex center director to get KQED Pride Award," June 5). If something newsworthy is going on at the LGBT Community Center, certainly it deserves coverage in the B.A.R. But I think the paper missed an important opportunity when it tried to tie some alleged controversy to one of the awardees, Brian Cheu, instead of focusing on the underlying value of the awards program and the great community contributions made by this year's recipients.

I nominated Brian Cheu for this award. Having known and worked with him for many years, I can't think of anyone more deserving of the title "Local Hero." Brian has worked tirelessly on behalf of the LGBT community, including during his tenure as director of the LGBT Community Center. Anyone reading through Brian's resume would be impressed that so much has been accomplished by one person. One of his greatest strengths, in my opinion, is as a community builder; he leaves no one behind when working on advancing the rights of the LGBT community. An excellent example of this is the work he did at the center, where he spent hours upon hours of his time working successfully with diverse community interests and needs to fit them all into the one initiative. In my nomination letter, I wrote: "If LGBT were a country, [Brian Cheu] should be its ambassador!"

Cynthia G. Goldstein
San Francisco

Very sad times for the gay community

With great sadness, I read in the B.A.R. of June 5 about a study that was made finding that the tobacco industry had used the gays to their advantage in the promotion of their poison ("Study: Tobacco company took advantage of gays"). Has not anyone ever thought in his or her right mind that the pharmaceutical corporations have been doing the very same thing dragging the AIDS holocaust for almost a quarter of a century up to this date?

Since the beginning of this year I have been using an alternative program that does really work. My T-cells have been able to stop the virus from entering inside them after having expelled the HIV virus and my CD-4 are steadily rising to a healthy normal range, something that none of the HIV drugs have never been able to do so far. Being a living proof, you can email me at j—h—@email.com.

John Hole
San Francisco

Stop being enablers

There are many in the LGBT community who still believe smoking is synonymous with being gay. Even though the incidence of smoking is 70 percent higher in the gay community than in the general population, that still makes those of us who don't smoke the majority. The recent studies released on smoking in the lesbian and gay community only confirm what many of us have known all along. We have been used by an industry that stands as the best example of corporate corruption and deception in the universe. Through the power of their advertising dollars they turned the whole world into enablers for people addicted to nicotine. For the sake of our own community it is time for us as a community to stop being enablers.

A Centers for Disease Control study found that 70 percent of smokers want to quit. As long as we allow the San Francisco government to put the needs of nicotine addicts before the right to breathe clean smokefree air, those who want to quit will have less incentive. We should follow the lead of more progressive communities and ban smoking wherever seating is provided (inside or out) for consumption of food and drink, and within 15 feet of all doorways and openings.

Gary Alinder
San Francisco

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Social insecurity

by Paula Martinac

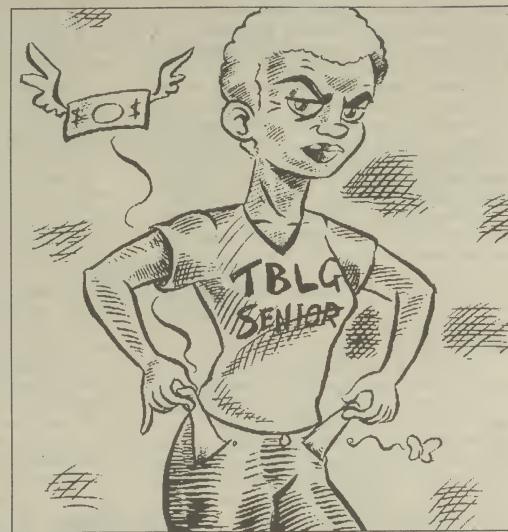
ately, there's been quite a bit of buzz in the mainstream media about the "vanishing retirement" many Americans face. Because of dwindling Social Security and private pension funds, a number of us, particularly women, won't be able to stop working at 65 or even 70, as we may have expected to; some will have to work well into our 80s. And for lesbian and gay baby boomers in the lower- and middle-income brackets, our approaching "golden years" pose serious economic problems.

Until recently, the tendency in our community has been to look at retirement as a "senior issue," defined as the specific social and emotional needs of older gay people or the heterosexism and homophobia widespread in senior healthcare. There's also been a fair amount of talk about planning gay retirement communities, which help a small segment of our community — those who can afford to buy into them. We've tried to compensate for the significant ageism in our community — and the resulting lack of focus on the economics of aging for those who aren't wealthy — through tokenism, like the practice of selecting prominent elders as grand marshals for our youth-oriented Pride marches.

But for gay boomers without personal wealth, daunting economic challenges await us. I don't mean that we might be forced to give up the idea of spending our retirement playing golf in Florida; that's part of the myth that we're all affluent. A more basic consideration for many of us is how to avoid poverty in our later years.

It's a depressing thought; no wonder many middle-aged people, gay and straight, have put off facing it. A recent poll suggested that a fourth of all Americans 35 to 54 have saved \$5,000 or less toward retirement.

Also discouraging is the lack of good information on the topic for the nonwealthy. When it comes to gay-specific information, there's even less; much of what's out there assumes that gay people could retire comfortably, if only we put our minds and wallets to it — instead of traveling abroad three times a year or spending our disposable income collecting antiques. For example, a recent article at the Gay Financial Network Web site (www.gfn.com) on why gay baby boomers are unprepared for re-



Christine Smith

tirement spotlighted a gay man who had devoted his extra money to the pricey hobby of keeping horses. Another article encouraged the creation of a personal financial plan so that as gay retirees we can spend \$30,000 a year on vacations

— never mind those of us who won't have \$30,000 a year to live on, let alone for vacations.

On the positive side, however, some national gay organizations have launched advocacy programs addressing the economic problems facing average LGBT seniors, many of whom will be forced to rely

on Social Security — just like a majority of Americans do. According to a comprehensive report from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force called "Outing Age" (www.ngltf.org), 62 percent of older Americans use Social Security benefits for half or more of their income. In the case of my working-class parents, the income has given a vital boost to modest personal savings that would not have lasted long; and if my father dies before my mother, she will still receive his benefits and therefore not face poverty.

The scandal is that, unlike married spouses, surviving same-sex partners can't collect each other's Social Security benefits, even though we may have paid into the system for 40 or 50 years (and those who are self-employed have paid into it double). It's a particularly greedy form of economic discrimination that a majority of Americans now say they oppose.

Given our "social insecurity,"

gay people are going to have to think creatively as a movement and a community and raise important political questions. For one, would some privatization of Social Security — if it allowed for survivor benefits without tax penalties — actually be more equitable for a greater number of Americans, gay and straight, single and coupled, parents and nonparents? Preserving Social Security has long been a sacred cow to Democrats, myself included — but should we be pressing our presidential candidates to recognize that merely shoring up the existing Social Security system also shores up economic discrimination?

In addition, how can our community help its own members devise ways to face the economic burdens of old age? During the stock market boom of the 1990s, there were numerous workshops and publications for gay people on smart investing. Now we need solid information on smart aging — surviving economically in our later years with strategies like "reverse mortgages" (for those who own a home but don't have any retirement savings) or self-employment options we can take with us into our senior years.

These kinds of questions won't wait; it's time to make the economic injustice of retirement and aging a central component of queer politics. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

Funds raised for AIDS, breast cancer

Former Ambassador James C. Hormel, second from left, presented the family of David Smith Fox with the Rick Salinas Outstanding Contribution Award that Fox received posthumously at the AIDS Emergency Fund's "Casino Royale 21" benefit Tuesday, June 10 at Club Mezzanine. Other awardees included the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (Fred Skau Outstanding Volunteer Award), Gail Deffarari and Susan Sachs of Universal Care (Hearts of Gold Award), Club Mezzanine owner and longtime supporter Audrey Joseph (George Burgess Founder's Award), and former AEF board president Ralph Petersen (Hank Cook Outstanding Service Award). Money raised at the event goes to help provide emergency cash grants to people living with AIDS and clients of the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund.



Mister Marcus

Governor Davis recall now appears to be likely

by Wayne Friday

Although the Republican-led effort to recall Democratic Governor **Gray Davis** – largely paid for by announced gubernatorial wannabe Congressman **Darrell Issa** (R-Vista) – now seems likely to become a certainty, the entire idea is still wrought with devious intentions and purely political motives.

True, Davis is immensely unpopular; hell, I had trouble voting for him myself last November, but consider the alternative. **Bill Simon? Arnold Schwarzenegger?** State Senator **Tom McClintock** (R-Thousand Oaks)? Proponents of the recall blame the hapless Davis for wrecking California's business climate. Truth is, it's not Davis who really worries California's business leaders, it's the recall. Indeed, it was reported in the *Los Angeles Times* that the California Business Roundtable, representing the state's biggest corporations, recently issued a statement against the expensive (\$25-\$35 million) recall, saying: "California needs its principal public officials to be focused fundamentally on restoring vitality to the economy and stability of the state's budget and financial position."

Davis, unpopular as he may be, was rightfully and honestly re-elected last November and he needs to spend his time working to correct the \$38 billion shortfall in the now-overdue state budget. While it is this budget shortfall that has gotten the governor into deep political trouble, even many of his detractors will admit that he is not the one most responsible for the financial woes in which the state finds itself. The national economy, under **George W. Bush**, has taken a nosedive since the GOP took over control of the federal government, and as for California, it was Davis's Republican predecessor, **Pete Wilson**, who signed the infamous power deregulation back in 1996 that brought the state much of its problems; Davis had nothing to do with it.

No doubt about it that the budget deficit is at the heart of the argument to recall Davis, but in all fairness, he didn't create it all by himself. There's plenty of blame to go around – for Democrats and Republicans. During flush times, Republicans were eager to cut taxes (they always are; it's simply good politics) while Democrats in the Legislature were hot to spend more money, some on totally unnecessary programs.

In the event a recall qualifies for the ballot, fair-minded voters, including many Republicans, should vote to let Davis keep his job, but if they don't, his successor would still have to deal with two-thirds of the state legislators in order to fashion any combination of cuts in state programs, increases of taxes, together with needed loans in order to put a budget together. This budget crisis is so real, so large, that the consequences of anyone solving it is so dire that every elected official in Sacramento should be focusing on nothing else until the job of crafting a budget is completed.



Governor Gray Davis

to do so. If, as it now appears, the recall makes it to the ballot either in November (or more likely next March), vote no on the recall and stop this expensive political madness once and for all.

Politics and people

Financial disclosures last week showed five of the nine announced Democratic presidential candidates to be multimillionaires; damn, I can remember when only the Republican candidates were among the filthy rich. The five are: Massachusetts Senator **John Kerry**, North Carolina Senator **John Edwards**, former Vermont Governor **Howard Dean**, Connecticut Senator **Joe Lieberman**, and Missouri Congressman **Richard Gephardt**.

The appearance of retired Army General **Wesley Clark** on NBC's *Meet the Press* last Sunday made the guy look like he was seriously thinking about joining the Democratic fray for president and what a hell of a candidate he would make.

Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) will host an open house at his San Francisco district office on Sunday, June 22, from 1-4 p.m. at 455 Golden Gate Avenue, suite 14300. The public is invited to stop by and say hello.

Ops: Last week's column should have congratulated and thanked openly gay freshman Assemblyman **John Laird** (D-Santa Cruz) for his work in helping Assemblywoman **Jackie Goldberg** (D-Los Angeles) get her AB205 domestic partner bill passed in the Assembly on a vote of 41-29.

And who would have thought with the budget crisis still hanging over their heads that the state Assembly could get tied up in a political fight over recognizing Father's Day, as it did last week? Seems that HR32, introduced by lesbian Assemblywoman **Christine Kehoe** (D-San Diego) did not specifically single out "traditional fathers" using the term "biological fathers" instead – and centered on the wording of "wonderful diversity." That upset the Republican members because it included "single fathers, foster fathers, adoptive fathers, families headed by two fathers, stepfathers, biological fathers, fathers in blended households, and other non-traditional fathers." (Whew, you get the idea?) The entire thing was simply too much for many Republican Assembly members (only 1 GOP member voted for it) but the resolution managed to pass with the bare 41-22 votes needed.

Oh, yes, a happy belated Dad's Day to you fathers.

The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club will hold its annual Pride Breakfast on Sunday, June 29, at Padovani's at the Hotel Milano, 55 Fifth Street, honoring out elected Democrats. The event takes place from 7:30-9:30 a.m. (\$100 donation asked; 415-395-9543 for tax and info).

And for the really well-heeled, Mayor **Willie Brown**, a prominent former Assembly speaker himself, is holding a "strictly black-tie" dinner honoring current Assembly Speaker **Herb Wesson** (D-Los Angeles) on Sunday, July 13 at the Fairmont Hotel with proceeds benefiting the state Democratic Party (\$1,000; 415-441-6900 for reservations and info).

next page ►

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Anybody can sell**my house.****But I don't want****just anybody.****I want HERTH
REAL ESTATE**555 Castro St. www.hertz.com 861-5200**Who are the Lesbian Avengers?**

by Liz Highleyman

June 1992 (11 years ago this month): New York City lesbian activists announce the birth of the Lesbian Avengers.

We want revenge and we want it now! Lesbians! Dykes! Gay women! ... We're wasting our lives being careful. Imagine what your life could be. Aren't you ready to make it happen?

So read 8,000 fluorescent green cards distributed at New York City's Pride march in late June 1992. On July 7, some 50 women gathered at the city's Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center to launch the Lesbian Avengers, one of the largest and most visible dyke activist movements ever formed.

Although the Lesbian Avengers had a young, punkish image, the six women who conceived the group — Anne-Christine D'Adesky, Marie Honan, Ann Maguire, Sarah Schulman, Ana Maria Simo, and Maxine Wolfe — were veteran lesbian activists who had long been active in pro-choice, social justice, and AIDS organizing. The founders were concerned that young queer women were not receiving sufficient organizing experience in groups comprised mostly of gay men.

"The original motive for the Lesbian Avengers was to find some kind of training ground to teach younger lesbians organizing skills, because male-dominated groups were not allowing them to develop," said Schulman, a well-known lesbian author.

The Lesbian Avengers' debut action took place on the first day of classes at a public grade school in Queens, a protest against the increasing influence of religious conservatives on the curriculum. Directly confronting societal fears about queers recruiting children, the Avengers handed out 300 lavender balloons with the message "Ask About Lesbian Lives."

In the ensuing years, Avengers chapters sprang up in cities, small

the LESBIAN AVENGERS

Lesbian Avengers' famous logo

towns, and campuses across the United States and around the world. Although no official count was ever taken, it is estimated that at the movement's peak there were 50 to 60 chapters, representing some six countries.

Eschewing process-heavy meetings and boring rallies, the Lesbian Avengers became known for their in-your-face direct-action tactics, campy humor, and creative use of art and media, similar to other activist groups of the day such as ACT UP, Women's Health Action and Mobilization, Queer Nation, and the Women's Action Coalition. Fire-eating became the Avengers' signature, and stickers featuring the group's logo of a lit bomb adorned lamposts and public mailboxes throughout New York, San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, and other cities.

The Lesbian Avengers' battles were fought on many fronts. The New York chapter erected a paper-mâché likeness of Alice B. Toklas next to an existing statue of her lover, writer Gertrude Stein, in Bryant Park on Valentine's Day in 1993. To protest a 1994 anti-immigrant ballot initiative, the San Francisco Avengers set up a "citizen checkpoint" at the city's opera house. And in 1995, the Boston chapter held an "eat-out" outside a local Jenny Craig center to protest the diet industry.

But the Avengers' most consistent target was the religious right. In February 1995, the San Francisco chapter unleashed a plague of locusts (actually 1,000 crickets) at the headquarters of Exodus International, an organization that claims to "cure" homosexuals. In

October 1997, Avengers from around the country protested at a national rally of the Promise Keepers, a patriarchal Christian men's group. The following year, the Washington, D.C. Avengers presented their Spirit of Bigotry awards to legislators Trent Lott (for "outstanding leadership in the area of homophobia"), Bob Barr (for his "willingness to uphold and promote pre-Civil War family values"), and Henry Hyde (for "displays of misogyny above and beyond the call of duty"). The group also established the Lesbian Avengers Civil Rights Organizing Project, which sent full-time lesbian activists to Maine and Idaho to organize against antigay ballot initiatives.

The most enduring legacy of the Lesbian Avengers may be the annual dyke marches, usually held on the eve of LGBT Pride parades. The first Dyke March, organized by members of the Avengers and ACT UP along with local lesbian activists, took place in April 1993 in conjunction with the national Lesbian, Gay, and Bi March on Washington. Some 20,000 dykes marched without a permit to the White House in what Schulman called "the largest lesbian event in the history of the world." Two months later, some 3,000 women turned out for a dyke march in New York City and 10,000 marched in San Francisco.

While most organized Lesbian Avengers chapters are no longer active, radical queer women still adopt the Avengers' name to carry out bold, outrageous actions. A small group of Santa Cruz Lesbian Avengers, for example, braved the cold rain topless to protest against the World Trade Organization in Seattle in 1999. And in cities across the United States and around the world, dyke marches are going strong and growing larger. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@black-rose.com.

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

One of those who always comes to mind during gay Pride month is **Gilbert Baker**, the San Francisco artist who created the world famous rainbow flag 25 years ago, in 1978. Monday's USA Today ran a photo of participants in the weekend PrideFest in Key West carrying a 1 and 1/4-mile long rainbow flag, which has become an icon of gay Pride the world over; congrats and thanks to Gilbert Baker.

When state Senator John Burton exchanged obscenities with Governor Davis and then stormed out of a meeting last week of the Legislature's top four leaders and the guy, one Capitol insider used to Burton's antics reportedly said, "I wasn't alarmed" and characterized Burton's blowup as being "partly theatrics" (who said you had to be likable to be powerful, huh senator?).

Two Canadian men were married only a few hours after an Ontario appeals court ruled that

Canada's ban on homosexual marriage was unconstitutional and the next day nearly two dozen gay couples applied for marriage licenses; a Toronto city spokesperson said 18 of the couples were from that city and the rest were from southern Ontario.

And only weeks after he fulfilled a campaign promise to end city insurance benefits for same-sex partners, Colorado Springs Mayor **Lionel Rivera** signed a proclamation last week recognizing the annual gay Pride Fest celebration, a move that angered many of the religious conservatives that helped put the mayor in office.

And speaking of mayors (or would-be mayors) for those who might have missed it the latest **David Binder** poll shows Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** leading San Francisco's mayoral race with 38 percent; **Tom Ammiano** with 19 percent, **Angela Alioto** with 14 percent, **Susan Leal** with 7 percent, and the others trailing badly.

Don't be surprised if Democratic Party elders quietly change the party leadership post from **Terry McAuliffe** (he's reportedly

made too many flubs) while national Republicans this week named GOP bigwig **Ed Gillespie** as their new national chairman.

Finally, three unforgettable quotes from three somewhat forgettable "leaders" made just prior to the United States attacking and "liberating" Iraq: "We know that the regime has produced thousands of tons of chemical agents" (President George W. Bush); "No terrorist state poses a greater or more immediate threat to our people ... than the regime of **Saddam Hussein** in Iraq" (Defense Secretary **Donald Rumsfeld**); "Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction" (Vice President **Dick Cheney**).

Meanwhile, only last week Republicans in Congress brushed aside Democratic pleas for a formal investigation into allegations that intelligence on Iraq's weapons program was exaggerated to win support for the war that has yet, two months later, failed to find those dreaded weapons of mass destruction.

And how was your week? ▼

Withdrawal method

by Jane Warner

Wells Fargo, 557 Castro, June 12, 5:38 p.m.: A teller watched as a man walked into the bank and directly up to her window. When she asked if she could help him, the man put his hand, which was wrapped in a black T-shirt, on the counter in front of her. "Give me all your large bills or I swear to God I will hurt you," he said. Fearing the man had a gun in the T-shirt, the teller handed him several large bills. The suspect folded the money and put it in his pants pocket. He then left the bank and was last seen walking northbound on Castro. The bank robber, described as an Hispanic male, 40-45 years old, 5 feet 5 inches, 145 pounds, wearing glasses and a black and gray plaid shirt and black pants, matches the description of a suspect who allegedly robbed a Citibank the day before. The FBI responded to both banks and took over the investigation.

Nic fit

3800 block of 19th Street, June 2, 2:30 a.m.: While standing on the corner of 19th and Church waiting for a friend, a man was suddenly approached from behind by two other men, one of whom asked for a cigarette. When the man said he didn't have one, one of the men became angry and pulled out a black semiautomatic handgun.



gun from his jacket. "Give me all your fucking money," he demanded. The suspects forced the victim against a building wall and rummaged through his pockets, taking the man's black leather bi-fold wallet containing \$70 and a California I.D. card. The suspects, described as Hispanic males between the ages of 20-30 years old, both with a small build, got into an older white Toyota Corolla driven by a third suspect. The car was last seen speeding northbound on Church Street.

Trans-action

Wells Fargo Bank, 557 Castro, June 6, 2:40 p.m.: A man walked into the bank and presented the teller with a Social Security card and asked to withdraw \$800 from his checking account. The teller became suspicious, however, when she noticed the name on the Social Security card was "Ashley." The teller asked the man for some photo identification, but he said he didn't have any, stating, "My wallet was stolen last night. This is all I have." The man insisted, however, that his name was Ashley and he wanted to withdraw money from his account. The teller excused herself and called 911. Police soon arrived and found the suspect outside getting into a maroon van occupied by two other men. Officers ran a check on the Social Security card and found it had been reported stolen the night before. The suspect was arrested for possession of

stolen property and attempted fraud. The other occupants were arrested for warrants on unrelated burglary and grand theft charges.

Full disclosure

16th and Pond, June 3, 2:00 p.m.: While patrolling Market Street, a police officer observed a white Mazda make an illegal U-turn in the intersection of Sanchez. Pulling the car over in front of Beck's Motor Lodge, the officer asked the driver for his license. The driver stated he didn't have one, but gave the officer his name. As the officer returned to his car to run further checks, the driver suddenly sped off westbound on Market. The cruiser pursued the vehicle with lights and sirens to 16th Street and onto Pond Street, where a resident backing out of her driveway inadvertently blocked the path of the Mazda. The officer pulled in close behind, trapping the fleeing vehicle. The driver quickly threw the car in reverse, rammed the patrol car, and then accelerated forward, sideswiping the woman's vehicle and continuing to drive at a high rate of speed. The officer was unable to maneuver around the woman's damaged vehicle and watched as the suspect fled eastbound on 17th Street. A short time later, however, the Mazda was found abandoned in the parking lot of Safeway. The suspect, described as a white male, in his 20s, with a reddish brown ponytail, had in fact given his real name to the police officer at the time of the traffic stop. A warrant for numerous charges was issued for his arrest. ▼

Hate crime co-defendant gets diversion

by Zak Szymanski

Victims of the alleged hate crime assault that took place at the 2002 San Francisco Drag King contest were dismayed by last week's court decision that allowed the case's co-defendant to expunge her criminal record and side-step the provisions that advocates had hoped for in the name of justice.

Jean Earl, of Walnut Creek, who was facing a misdemeanor charge for her part in the alleged incident at the night club StudioZ.tv last August, was ordered to go through counseling last Wednesday, June 11. The victims had hoped she would have to do community service, preferably in the LGBT community, and that Earl's record would include a simple battery charge. But their voices became irrelevant when San Francisco Superior Court Judge Gerald Reagan refused to hear the victims' testimony and instead referred Earl to diversion based on

her lack of a criminal record.

Earl, according to legal guidelines, was eligible for diversion, but Assistant District Attorney John Zahar objected to the diversion, based on her involvement in the hate crime case.

"I like to give a person a chance," Reagan told Zahar. "Let's see what an independent person in probation thinks."

But the re-routing of the case to diversion in fact sealed its fate, said Zahar, despite Reagan's phrasing that made it seem like he wasn't making a decision.

It was Earl who allegedly instigated last year's incident when she reached over and punched victim Yvette Balderas before being escorted out of the club, said witnesses. Earl and her companion, Jack Broughton, also of Walnut Creek, reportedly were asked to leave the bar for their racist and homophobic speech and reckless behavior.

According to witnesses, Balderas followed Earl out of the bar to ask why she had hit her, and

once outside, Earl took another swing at Balderas, who ducked and hit back, knocking Earl to the ground. At that point, said witnesses, Earl's companion Broughton approached Balderas, and, yelling homophobic and other slurs, hit her until she unconscious, then kicked her repeatedly while she was down. Mariah Sparks, a friend of Balderas, attempted to intervene, and she, too, was allegedly assaulted by Broughton. Earl and Broughton then left the club together and were two blocks away.

Broughton's hate crime charge was upheld by Judge John Stewart last month. In light of last week's ruling amounting to "a slap on the wrist" for Earl, said Balderas and Sparks, the victims are considering a civil lawsuit to cover their medical costs and lost wages. Attorneys willing to offer free or low-cost representation to the victims should call Tina D'Elia at Community United Against Violence at (415) 777-5500, ext. 304. ▼

Groups launch anti-harassment campaign

by Zak Szymanski

Pride is traditionally a time to cruise and fondle people in ways not regularly practiced. This freedom of expression usually results in naughty displays of healthy affection, but add alcohol, drugs, or immaturity to the mix, and sometimes there are problems.

Enter the "Give Them Hope, Don't Grope" campaign, an effort launched by Community United Against Violence and Beautiful

Lips on Whistles (BLOW) to educate the community about sexual harassment.

Responding to concerns about unwelcome touching and groping, the effort includes leaflets and stickers. Organizers will also host a substance-free, groping-free sanctuary, to be stationed next to the Asian Art Museum during Pride.

"Although many folks in our communities understand hate crimes, they might not get the idea of harassment by other community members," said Benji Holmann,

events coordinator for the BLOW project. "In the gay men's world, groping has, seemingly, been a rite of passage, of acceptance even. Fueled by the celebratory atmosphere at Pride, perception of what is a 'friendly grope' goes out the door and is not always taken as a friendly gesture."

Without raining on anybody's parade, organizers hope to deliver a message that encourages continued fun, sexiness, and even outreousness — as long as there is consent. ▼

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New bagel shop opens

by Cynthia Laird

Bagel Brothers is one of the newest additions to the Castro, and owners Dan Glazer and Mark Leibovitz have put their combined 85 years of bagel-eating experience into making classic New York style bagels at the shop.

Staff at the store, located at 495 Castro Street near 18th (at the site of the former Planet Juice), make bagels by mixing from scratch, boiling, and then baking them onsite, Glazer explained.

Glazer and Leibovitz opened for business on June 3, and in the Jewish tradition, held a "shoe ceremony," whereby each removed their old shoes, leaving them at the curb, and entered the store with new shoes.

"This symbolized our new venture as well as anonymously giving someone else a chance to start something new," Glazer said. Leibovitz's size 10 shoes were gone within the hour; Glazer's size 13 shoes took a little longer, but were missing from the site by noon, he added.

Glazer also owns the Hot Cookie store in the Castro, while Leibovitz left a job in telecommunications management to help start the new venture. The shop



Dan Glazer, left, and Mark Leibovitz perform the "shoe ceremony" before opening Bagel Brothers.

serves the traditional bagels with all the extras, including lox, sandwiches, and breakfast treats.

"It's another example of the re-

naissance going on in the Castro," Glazer said.

For more information, people can visit www.bagelbros.com. ▼

TARC hosts 2nd 'Trannyweek'

by Matthew S. Bakko

For the second year in a row, the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center is hosting "Trannyweek," a weeklong celebration for the local transgender community.

The week's worth of events prior to San Francisco's Pride celebration runs the gamut of afternoon workshops, discussions, films, food, and entertainment. Beginning on Tuesday, June 24 and running through Friday, June 27, Trannyweek is part of TARC's overall health promotion efforts and ends with a transparty featuring the Transcendence Gospel Choir and local entertainers.

"By creating a better informed and more connected social network the event seeks to empower

transgender residents in becoming active in their overall health and well-being. Trannyweek also serves an opportunity for the trans community to participate in shaping the programs that are designed to serve them," Paul Harkin, TARC's HIV prevention services manager, said in a statement about the event.

TARC, founded in 1990, conducts a range of outreach and health service programs in the Tenderloin neighborhood for homeless and marginally-housed residents. TARC offers a weekly breakfast program, psychosocial support and critical life sustaining services, including nutritional supplementation, and syringe exchange, HIV emergency and long-term housing, and onsite HIV primary medical care.

Yearly, the organization serves approximately 700 individuals liv-

ing with HIV/AIDS and provides services to 6,000 homeless individuals. During Trannyweek, TARC is joining with other local agencies to produce the event.

Participating agencies include the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center, Ark of Refuge, Community United Against Violence, Proyecto Contra SIDA por Vida, Transcending, Tranny Fest, Transgender Law Center, TRANS (UCSF CAPS), and Walden House. The event is made possible by a grant from Horizons Foundation, support from the Department of Public Health AIDS Office, and individual contributors.

The celebration will be held in TARC's community center at 183 Golden Gate Avenue. For a full schedule of events, visit www.tarscf.org or call Harkin at (415) 241-2530. ▼

Black Pride in San Francisco this month

by Zak Szymanski

Black Pride is already under way in San Francisco, with events taking place this week and next to celebrate the black LGBT and same-gender-loving experience. This is the first time San Francisco's Black Pride takes place in June, rather than October, a move that organizer Bernard Henderson said is in honor of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration's "Soul of Pride" stage as part of the festival.

"We're just telling folks to meet, hang out at the Soul of Pride stage, and come to other events in the area," said Henderson.

San Francisco Black Pride events include tonight's (Thursday, June 19) last performance of "Straight Black Folks Guide To Gay Black Folks," starring Hanifah Walidah, at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission Street, at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$10-\$15 sliding scale, no one will be turned

away for lack of funds.

Tonight also marks the opening of B/GLAM's visual exhibit at the San Francisco LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street. The exhibit is in gallery 301 and 302, as well as the lobby; the event begins at 6:30 p.m. and is free.

B/GLAM will also host its third annual arts festival with a celebration of word and performance, curated by Marvin K. White and Cedric Brown. The event takes place Friday and Saturday, June 20 and 21, at the LGBT Center's Ceremonial Room, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7-\$12 sliding scale; visit www.queerculturalcenter.org for more information.

Black Pride presents the fourth annual Reggie Williams Achievement Awards on Thursday, June 26, from 8 p.m. to midnight at the African American Arts and Culture Complex, 762 Fulton Street. The event is free and will honor community heroes including writer/activist Jewelle Gomez; artist Michael Copeland Sydnor;

Afro Solo's Thomas Simpson; and San Francisco women's professional football team founder Denise Wrighting.

Also at the African American Arts & Culture Complex, on Friday, June 27, is the Sylvester Music Heritage Awards ceremony, a free event beginning at 8 p.m.

The Soul of Pride stage and village takes place as part of San Francisco Pride on Sunday, June 29, on McAllister near Hyde. The stage features an all day showcase of soul, hip-hop, dance, R&B, and soul rock with live bands, deejays, speakers, and emcees. For a full schedule of performers, visit www.sfpride.org.

The "Soulful Pride After Party" wraps up the festivities on Sunday, June 29, from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Club NV, 626 Howard Street (at First Street). Admission is \$10.

For more information on California Black Pride events, including the upcoming Oakland events in October, visit www.california-blackprides.org. ▼

City launches online syphilis testing program

by Matthew S. Bajko

In its efforts to combat rising rates of syphilis among gay and bisexual men, the San Francisco Department of Public Health is taking its fight to the Internet. This week, the health department began offering syphilis tests through an online process.

While there are commercial online testing sites, which cost money to use, the health department's free testing service is believed to be the first of its kind in the United States.

"Many jurisdictions are now experiencing epidemic increases of syphilis. Everyone is excited about the idea and want to see what the results are here in San Francisco," said Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, the health department's director of sexually transmitted disease prevention.

To order the confidential syphilis test, San Francisco residents can go to the Web site stdtest.org and print out a test form online. After the form is filled out, then take it to a local Unilab/Quest laboratory.

The Unilab locations and business hours are on the form. A lab worker will draw your blood and send you on your way. The process should take roughly 15 minutes.

Test results are then returned online within three to seven days. Because the results list only a confidential personal identification number, individuals who test positive can print out the document privately and take it to the City Clinic or their own healthcare provider for treatment. The Department of Public Health will follow up to ensure that all persons and their sex partners who test positive receive treatment.

The online initiative has been in development since January, and has cost the department less than

\$20,000. Klausner said he is expecting a few hundred people a year will use the online testing at a cost of \$15 per test.

"We test over 20,000 people a year at City Clinic and we are prepared to deal with a significant increase in testing through this service," said Klausner. "We recommend sexually active gay men and other men who have sex with men with multiple partners get tested every three months."

While some people experience a painless sore on their penis or in their mouth or rectum, some people never show signs that they have syphilis. If detected, it is easily treatable. If left untreated, syphilis can lead to paralysis, damage to blood vessels, and death.

Despite increased efforts to raise awareness about the STD, syphilis rates continue to rise in San Francisco, according to public health officials. Since 1999, more than 1,000 new cases of syphilis have been reported. Nearly 94 percent of new cases have been in gay/bisexual men and 60 percent in those HIV-infected.

According to the men interviewed, nearly 40 percent of recent syphilis cases have met their sex partners online.

"Now we can offer these same Internet users a free, convenient way to access STD testing via the Web," said Klausner. "We also think it will be invaluable to anyone who has difficulty accessing health care or is reluctant to seek medical care around issues of sexual health."

The new site is a collaboration between the San Francisco Department of Public Health, STD Prevention and Control Services; Internet Sexuality Information Services; and Quest Diagnostics.

"I think this is one tool. I don't think this is the ultimate answer," said Deb Levine, founder and executive director of ISIS, whose company built the online testing

service. "I do think this is part and parcel of many things both the health department and community are doing to work toward getting our syphilis numbers back down."

The online testing is just the latest in a string of initiatives Klausner has launched in the last year to deal with the increase in syphilis rates. The STD unit has paid for the Healthy Penis ad campaign seen in gay papers and Muni billboards around town as well as holding events in gay bars to raise awareness among those men most at risk for syphilis.

The health department is also evaluating a rapid syphilis test that is used in other countries but has yet to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

The online testing program will be evaluated in three months to see what impact it has had.

"If we never identify cases of syphilis through this, then it is not a worthwhile endeavor," Klausner said.

It remains to be seen if the online system will be a draw. While health officials contend the system is set up in a way to protect people's health information from hackers, some people may still be wary that their health records could be accessible.

"I don't know if a large number of individuals will take advantage of that, but for those who do, I think it sounds like a good idea," said David Evans, program director at the Stop AIDS Project. ▼



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Is there a gay agenda?

by Bob Roehr

Is there a gay agenda? Eight LGBT national leaders discussed that question before a packed house of more than 300 on Monday, June 2, in Washington, D.C. While there were differences on tactics and on fine points of what should or should not be included, the overall tone was more cooperative than had been seen at some similar events in the past.

"Do we have issues on which we can speak in a common voice? The answer is an unqualified yes," said Patrick Guerriero. The panelists had drawn numbers to decide their order of speaking and the executive director of Log Cabin Republicans went first.

He sketched out a new policy to "save our firepower ... to take on the voices of bigotry" rather than sniping at other community organizations. LCR's focus includes pushing a legislative agenda of hate crimes and employment protection, personal privacy, "recognition of our relationships," HIV, and breast cancer.

"We recognize the great hypocrisy of fighting for freedom overseas while some of the men and women of the armed forces cannot be free in expressing their sexual orientation," Guerriero concluded. "You don't get respect in America unless you demand it."

Martin Ornelas-Quintero, executive director of the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Organization,

said, "There are plenty of gay agendas. There isn't one gay agenda, there isn't one voice, for one voice cannot truly capture the essence of our complexity."

He used the example of immigration. "It is important to me as a gay man," he said, perhaps because he is an immigrant. "Everyone has a different prism, a different angle that they look at [things], and that is good." However, he does not want to be "part of a larger gay community that is splintered, we want to be part of a larger queer community that is united, that is sophisticated in its diversity up front as well as in its actions."

"It really is about justice, and about civil rights, and about civil liberties," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "It really simply is not possible to create a world in which transgender people are not safe, but gay, lesbian, and bisexual people are safe ... It is the same violence that is attacking all of us."

"When our community is under attack, we have an obligation to set all of our agendas aside and unite and fight that attack," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

He saw this threat in a constitutional amendment to outlaw gay marriage that is being pushed by some on the far right. "I see this becoming a blazing inferno," with Congress and the states passing it much as Congress did with the antigay Defense of Marriage Act

in 1993,

"There is no way to advance our agenda on our backs alone, we are simply too small a people to do that," Foreman said. "The only way we are going to advance our rights is with all of our allies." He saw the solution in building coalitions and in registering and voting.

"Time and time again, in state after state, we learn that we are better off when Democrats are in charge," said Dave Noble, executive director of National Stonewall Democrats. "The Democratic agenda helps the gay community as well." He asserted, "When we create smaller class sizes, we reduce antigay bullying in classrooms because teachers can pay more attention to what is going on in their classrooms."

Guerriero noted that both DOMA and the antigay military policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" were passed when Democrats controlled both houses of Congress and the White House.

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, struck some of the most optimistic notes of the evening. "We see the agenda as perfect equality. Nothing more, nothing less, whether it is about immigration, or the military, or the 1,045 rights, benefits, and privileges extended to Americans on terms of relationship recognition."

"We are winning, and we are winning because when accurate information is put out about who we are as people, who we are as a community, and all of the issues

that face our lives, what is created is an amazing cultural shift and emotional shift," she said. "Never in the history of this country has there been such a transformation in attitudes over such a short period of time."

"I am more bipartisan today than I was when I arrived," said Birch. "You need good moderate Republicans or you can't get stuff done in Congress. And you need fantastic Democrats, and more of them."

Craig Bowman, executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, had a more ominous view. He called these "dangerous times" with threats to affirmative action, reproductive choice, privacy, and a military buildup. "I'm tired of people telling me that the war [in Iraq] is not a gay issue." Military spending and tax cuts "are affecting social safety net programs," and a handful of youth programs have closed their doors.

For Mandy Carter, a founder and staff member of Southerners on New Ground, the principle question is: "Are we going to be about 'just us' activism? Or are we going to be about joining the forces of the broad-based civil rights movement, a group that includes us?"

"Every 10 years this country gets more and more of color," she said. Will the community acknowledge this demographic change and embrace more of a multiracial and multicultural approach? "Is the LGBT agenda relevant to the lives of communities of color?"

During questions and discussion from the floor, Birch said, "The central way that humankind has controlled homosexuals over the centuries is to project the scourge of pedophilia onto us ... People are very tolerant until you get close to their children, and then they freak out." She called it a central challenge that has to be faced "head on."

"We need to be clear that we are recruiting," said Ornelas-Quintero. "We are recruiting to



Activist Mandy Carter

save queer children from the ravages of the right. We have to be very honest and very direct, and take responsibility as leaders. If we do not protect ourselves, no one will."

One young law student called the current situation "unbelievably scary." Birch disagreed, citing numerous recent advances in private industry and in state and local governments. Foreman hedged, saying, "The progress our community has made over 30-40 years is nothing short of extraordinary," yet he feared a backlash that could roll back that progress.

Carter compared it with the black civil rights movement and saw the antigay frothing of extremists as a sign that the community is winning. "When we are this close, it means that people start getting scared, and when they get scared, they get desperate. When they get desperate, they start doing crazy things."

The forum came to a dramatic close when a black woman in the audience stepped to the microphone as "an ambassador of Jesus Christ ... Look at someone who God turned from a gay woman to straight." She asked what they would say before God. The audience seemed divided between bemusement and anger, and a police officer quickly removed her from the room.

"Let's answer her question," said Birch. "I would say, thank you God, for making such an interesting, colorful variation on the species." ▼

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Marin Pride celebration Sat.

by Cynthia Laird

LGBT residents of Marin County and their friends from around the Bay Area will be on deck for the "Marin Pride Celebration" this Saturday, June 21 in San Rafael.

The Pride dance is sponsored in part by the Spectrum Center for LGBT Concerns and the Marin Life Program, an AIDS project for gay and bisexual men.

"It's really exciting to bring back the Marin Pride Dance this year," said Brian Gardiner, program coordinator at Marin Life.

In past years, the event has taken place in August, but this year organizers moved the event up to June as a warm-up for San Francisco Pride, which takes place June 28-29.

"This is a great way to meet Marin's most interesting people and to rev up for San Francisco Pride," said Hannah Doress, of Spectrum Center.

The event welcomes all LGBT people and their friends to dance till the early morning hours, meet new people, and enjoy delicious appetizers prepared by Seafood Peddler. The dance takes place at Seafood Peddler, which is also an event sponsor, along with *We The People* and San Francisco's *Spectrum* newspapers.

There will be a no-host bar and a \$10 suggested donation at the door. DJ Nica will spin the best in current House and Latin music as well as dance favorites from the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Originally from Nicaragua, Nica has appeared in various nightclubs from Miami to San Francisco. He has also worked with top personalities in the entertainment world, including Santana.

The Pride dance takes place at Seafood Peddler, 100 Yacht Club Drive, in San Rafael, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. For more information, call (415) 457-2485, ext. 112 or (415) 457-1115, ext. 206. ▼

Davis launches LGBT anti-tobacco campaign

by Zak Szymanski

Corporations and businesses won't be the only ones targeting the LGBT community with advertising this Pride. Governor Gray Davis has launched a community-specific campaign of his own.

Responding to surveys that show gays and lesbians smoke 70 percent more than the general population, the governor's office began running anti-smoking ads in LGBT publications this month, as part of a larger effort to reduce tobacco use among all Californians.

Advertisements include "Vending Machine" which depicts a cigarette machine in a bar, and explains how buying cigarettes contributes to big tobacco's efforts to promote deadly products within the gay community. And "Protest" shows a man in a crowd carrying a demonstration sign that reads, "The gay community faces discrimination, but not from cancer, heart disease, or emphysema." Smoking is the number one killer in the gay community, the ad states.



Photo from LGBT anti-smoking ad produced by Gov. Gray Davis's office.

"There is evidence that big tobacco marketing is targeting the

gay and lesbian community," said a statement from Davis. "We must

do our part in stopping this manipulation and let the gay and lesbian community know that smoking kills."

Gloria Soliz, project director of the Coalition of Lavender Americans on Smoking and Health, concurred.

"Unfortunately, the tobacco industry's marketing efforts appear particularly effective among lesbians and gays," said Soliz. "These new data are a wake-up call to our communities. It's time to spread the word and not let the tobacco industry infiltrate our lives."

The LGBT anti-smoking campaign – believed to be the first statewide campaign of its kind – has been in the works since the governor commissioned a study by the University of California, Los Angeles in 2001, which showed gays and lesbians 18-65 years old had a combined smoking prevalence of 30.8 percent.

Separate but related studies by UCSF were published in this month's *Tobacco Control and American Journal of Public Health* that concluded a major tobacco company was able to simultaneously

appeal and distance itself from the gay community by donating money to AIDS research and advertising in gay publications while continuing to fund right-wing antigay politicians in the 1990s.

Russ Lopez, an openly gay spokesman for the governor, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that in order to be effective with the money earmarked for anti-tobacco advertising, focus groups were conducted to ensure reaction from proposed advertisements before they ran. The LGBT campaign cost \$300,000, said Lopez, which came from tobacco settlement money.

"This is part of our continuing outreach effort to educate the public on the harms of tobacco products," said Lopez, who added that the ads will continue to run through June 2004, and that the governor's office was looking at other forms of advertising as well. "We need to reach out to the community. Our rates for smoking among adults and children are going down, but in the gay and lesbian population they're going up." ▼

Pink triangle

◀ page 1

grants, and political prisoners. Homosexuals – recognized by the large pink triangle worn on their pockets – were reportedly targeted for even harsher treatment in concentration camps.

Although reclaimed as a symbol of pride in the gay community, the pink triangle's hateful history should help people to "remember the past," according to Friends of the Pink Triangle founder Patrick Carney, "so it doesn't happen again."

Many who have witnessed the world events over the past few years would caution that government-sanctioned fear and hatred is indeed happening again, both here and abroad. Which is why it is even more important that community members help to construct this year's pink triangle, in solidarity with the message that "we want to prevent any hateful policies toward any particular group," according to Carney.

This year's installation, accord-

ing to organizers, will expand on what the Nazis did to minority groups, and make it clear that the same kind of thinking that existed in 1940s Germany continues to rear its head today.

A dedication ceremony for the pink triangle will take place immediately following the installation on June 28 at 10:30 a.m. Scheduled speakers include Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Treasurer Susan Leal, and Board of Equalization Chair Carole Migden. Berlin's Mayor Wowereit was invited to attend the installation and ceremony, but had other commitments in Germany on that day.

Wowereit "would have liked very much to participate," according to the letter. "This would certainly have been a great opportunity to underline the significance of the continued commitment toward more justice and peace worldwide."

Carney told the *Bay Area Reporter* that with advance planning, he hopes to get Wowereit to San Francisco for next year's Pride and pink triangle activities.

In the meantime, Carney, and

Friends of the Pink Triangle co-founders and volunteers, will continue to educate the public about the need to remember the story behind the triangle.

"When we first did this we thought everyone knew about the pink triangle, and we found out a lot of people thought it was just an abstract graphic symbol; they didn't realize the meaning behind

it," said Carney. "The pink triangle came from something tragic. It's been 70 years since Hitler came to power. Seventy years ago, the mayor of Berlin would have been put in a concentration camp. This is an important milestone we have, to make sure we don't go backwards and repeat history."

To get to the pink triangle site from the Castro, drive up 17th

Street, turn left on Clayton, then immediately turn right on Twin Peaks Boulevard. Stay on Twin Peaks Boulevard all the way up the hill – veering left when it turns sharply. At the top of the hill is a small street called Christmas Tree Lane, which leads to the overlook parking lot. Look for the big group of volunteers holding pink canvas. ▼

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Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., a national non-profit LGBT and HIV/AIDS civil rights organization, seeks a Legal Director to be based in its New York City Headquarters. The Legal Director is a member of the senior management team and will provide leadership and coordination in the planning and vision for the department and organization. Responsibilities include supervising senior attorneys, coordinating joint program planning and work with the Education and Public Affairs Department, budgeting, and working with other legal LGBT organizations. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 7-10 years civil rights litigation experience and excellent management and organizational skills.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay men lead SPCA into the future

by Zak Szymanski

Daniel Crain, the newly elected president of San Francisco's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, sat in his large corner office and spoke softly, describing how the SPCA's new Roberts Medical Center will be built on a combined-use business plan that will save lives while supplying funds to the organization.

"We're confident that the new medical center, like our shelter, will serve as national model," said Crain. "It will be another way for San Francisco to be on the cutting edge."

Flash forward: Crain rolled recklessly on the floor of the pet condo belonging to "Fritz," a 3-year-old pure-bred wire-haired dachshund whose terrier-like face seemed to be lost in philosophical thought. When a passerby joked about Fritz having no legs, Crain shot back, "He has five."

Fritz, after all, is well-endowed. When Crain and the rest of the SPCA staff took him and other adoptables to a local radio show, the deejays "couldn't stop talking about his big penis."

"All that publicity," remarked Crain, receiving a mouthful of Fritz-kisses, "and he still hasn't been adopted."

Watch Crain walk through "Maddie's," the state-of-the-art luxury shelter for adoptable pets, and it is clear why he describes his job as "a calling." The openly gay leader of this prominent animal shelter, hospital, and outreach facility switches from business-speak to baby-talk at the drop of a bone.

Crain, 39, is certainly well qualified for the task of running the \$10.9 million nonprofit at an annual salary of \$121,000. He has 19 years of hotel leadership and management behind him, and three years of serving as the SPCA's vice president where he is credited with improving the organization's efficiency and financial performance. A Harvard Business School graduate in non-profit management, he has the impressive credentials necessary to sustain the SPCA as a leader in its field. But with five dogs of his own, he also has the compassion and vision to put pets and their people first.

"What I really want to do is take our 'no kill' message to the rest of the country," he said, dubbing the effort "No-Kill U.S.A." and describing how he would make all his informational resources available to any shelter interested in raising its "save rate." The San Francisco SPCA has pledged not to kill any adoptable animal, and its partnership with the city's Animal Care and Control further ensures that most lost or abandoned animals will find a loving home. For an animal to be considered unadoptable, said Crain, it would have to have a severe illness or severe behavior problem that could not be cured. San Francisco has the highest save rate in the nation, at 80 percent.

Most exciting to Crain is the imminent launch of the Roberts Medical Center, which will combine a variety of animal specialists under one roof for ophthalmology, dermatology, oncology,

neurology, cardiology, and 24-hour emergency care. It will serve as a resource, rather than a competitor, for other veterinarians. And it will be housed in the building adjacent to the SPCA's current facility, with its non-profit animal care sharing the space with several for-profit but related businesses. The SPCA will also save money, said Crain, by using the donated services of professionals instead of having to transport severely sick or injured animals elsewhere for consultations. The \$15 million project kicks off in February 2004, and is expected to be completed 18 months later.

Leading the Roberts Center as chief of staff will be openly gay Dr. Jeffrey Proulx, a board certified specialist in emergency and critical care. Proulx, at the SPCA since 2000, currently oversees the community veterinary services division. Crain credits Proulx for being "instrumental" in making the center a reality.

As the Roberts Center gets off the ground, there is still much for Crain to do; the SPCA continues

to host, for instance, training for guide dogs for the hearing impaired, a kids' camp, and a feral cat clinic. And its community outreach includes education and even off-leash advocacy.

Crain also hopes to continue the SPCA's partnerships with the gay and gay-friendly community, including Pets Are Wonderful Support; the Castro store Best in Show; Critter Lovers at Work; and Cliff's Variety store. He encourages LGBT community members to contact the SPCA for naming opportunities in the new medical center. And he envisions meeting with shelter executives and animal clinic personnel here and abroad for the sake of saving more animals.

"What I'd really like to do is stop segregating all these organizations," said Crain. "We all have the same goal, and instead of all the chest pounding and reciting statistics, we could all help each other." ▼

For more information, visit www.sfsPCA.org.

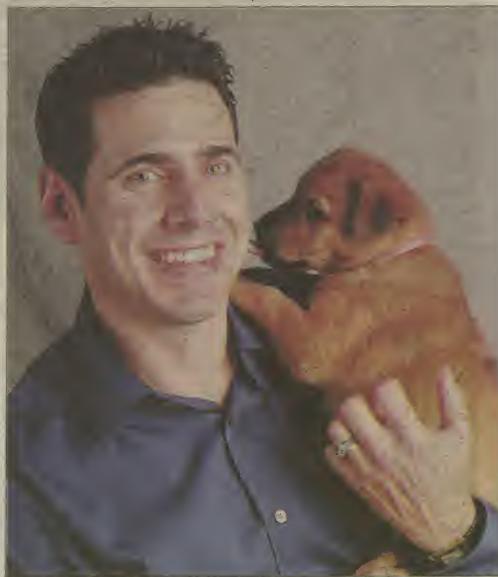
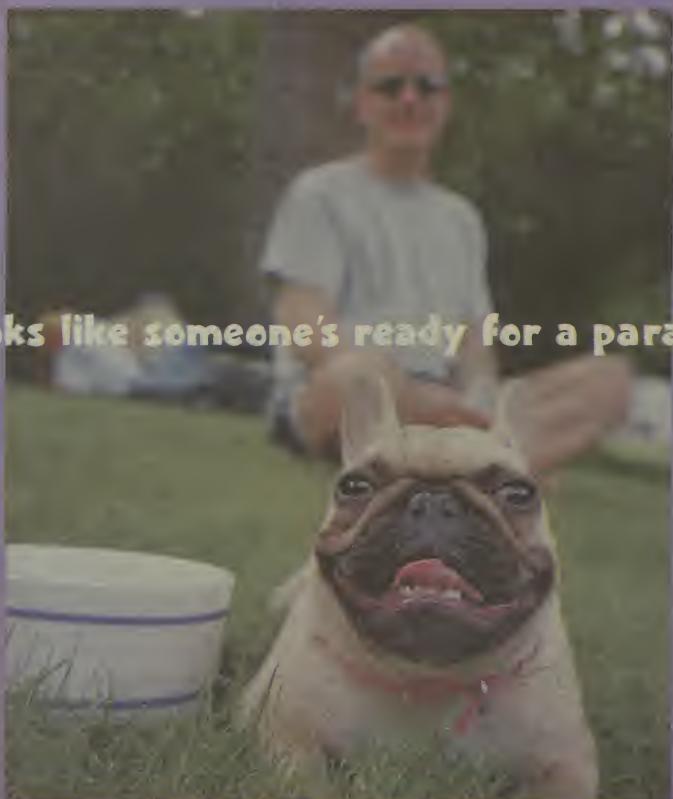


Photo Credit:

New SPCA President Daniel Crain with a pal.

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Virginia elects first openly gay legislator

by Bob Roeher

The Virginia state Legislature will have its first openly gay member when it convenes next year. Adam P. Ebbin won a hotly contested five-way Democratic primary in the Washington suburbs of northern Virginia on June 10. There is no Republican opponent in the general election in the fall.

Ebbin, 39, has long been active within the gay community and Democratic politics. He was a member of the Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance and a founding member of Equity Virginia, the statewide group lobbying for gay rights. He served as chief deputy commissioner of the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry under current Governor Mark Warner (D).

The 49th legislative district is the most diverse in the state, the only one in which neither whites nor blacks constitute a majority of the population of 50,000. The latest census showed it to be approximately 40 percent Hispanic, 30 percent white, 20 percent black, and 10 percent Asian.

The incumbent was retiring after representing the district for more than a generation and the race was wide open. No Hispanics have served in the Virginia Legislature and two vied for that honor in the primary. And another gay candidate, Nathan Monell, director of the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry, threatened to split the gay vote. Only one candidate was a woman.

Ebbin was an underdog who

received few endorsements. He campaigned on local issues such as property tax relief for those who are retired and on fixed income, an elimination of the sales tax on groceries, and increased state support for local education.

In the end he beat out his nearest rival, Teresa Martinez, by 771 (29.65 percent) to 728 (28 percent), a mere 43 votes.

Ebbin's energy and focused campaigning were key. So too was his ability to raise \$60,000 in just three months, a substantial portion of it with the help of the Gay

and Lesbian Victory Fund. A month earlier Paul Smedberg was elected the first openly gay member of the Alexandria City Council and Ebbin was able to tap into that political network in his base of Alexandria where he rolled up a large portion of his vote.

"The state as a whole has a lot of catching up to do when it comes to accepting different kinds of people," Ebbin told the *Washington Post* the day after the election. He hopes that his presence will help fellow legislators achieve "some better understanding of

who I am and the things that I am about," just as it has in other legislative bodies.

Virginia is one of the dwindling number of states that still has a sodomy law on the books. Republican control of both houses of the state Legislature is not likely to be threatened in the fall general election. It is difficult to predict whether being gay or a Democrat will prove to be the greater burden for Ebbin in Richmond. But one thing he has going for him is his strong political ties to the governor. ▼



Primary winner Adam Ebbin

Bob Roeher

Senators introduce hepatitis C bill

by Liz Highleyman

Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) and Edward Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) introduced new bipartisan legislation last month directing the federal government to develop a comprehensive national treatment and prevention plan for hepatitis C — the first ever federal response to the disease. A companion bill is expected to be introduced in the House of Representatives.

The Hepatitis C Epidemic Control and Prevention Act (S1143) would create hepatitis C public awareness campaigns; implement screening, counseling, and surveillance programs; support professional training; and

fund hepatitis C virus treatment and vaccine research. The new program would be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and would provide funding and support for state and local agencies.

The bill — introduced May 23 — was spearheaded by the National Hepatitis C Advocacy Council, a coalition of nearly two dozen organizations promoting the same type of advocacy around HCV that successfully garnered more attention and funding for HIV/AIDS.

"Currently, there are few resources for people with HCV," said Alan Franciscus, director of the San Francisco-based Hepatitis C Support Project, a member of NHCAC. "This important legislation has the potential to dramatically improve patient care and support for all communities affected by hepatitis C."

cause liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, and fatal liver failure, usually after years or decades. Hepatitis C is the leading cause of liver transplants in the U.S. Coinfection with HCV and HIV is also a growing public health concern, and research has shown that HIV accelerates hepatitis C disease progression.

Hepatitis C is the most common blood-borne viral infection in the U.S. It is estimated that 4 million people in this country are infected with HCV and about 15,000 die each year from complications related to the disease, according to NHCAC. HCV is most often transmitted through shared needles used to inject drugs, but it may also be transmitted by sharp objects such as razors or unsterilized tattooing and body piercing tools; it is not commonly transmitted through sex.

"Chronic hepatitis C is completely preventable with sound public health policy in place," said Lorren Sandt of NHCAC.

If left untreated, HCV can

cause liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, and fatal liver failure, usually after years or decades. Hepatitis C is the leading cause of liver transplants in the U.S. Coinfection with HCV and HIV is also a growing public health concern, and research has shown that HIV accelerates hepatitis C disease progression.

Dr. Gary Davis of Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas and colleagues estimated in the April issue of *Liver Transplantation* that while the rate of new HCV infections has decreased dramatically, the prevalence of liver cirrhosis and its complications will likely rise over the next 10-20 years. If untreated, as many as one-third of infected people may develop cirrhosis by the year 2020, the researchers estimated. ▼

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Stop AIDS

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Sex = Safe Sex? which discussed the latest information about the risk factors involved in oral sex.

In her June 13 letter, sent to Republican Congressman Mark Souder (R-Indiana), who as chair of the Criminal Justice Subcommittee in the House of Representatives has repeatedly questioned prevention funding, Gerberding states, "Recent Stop AIDS workshop titles and program descriptions that involve, for example, advice on promoting relations with escorts and prostitutes, in my view, appear to violate Section 2500."

Gerberding is referring to the section of the Public Health Service Act known at the Helms Amendment, which makes it illegal to use federal dollars intended for HIV/AIDS prevention programs designed to promote or encourage, directly, sexual activity. In her letter, Gerberding states "As the Director of CDC, I am committed to ensuring that CDC funds are not used in this manner."

In a separate letter to Stop AIDS and the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Sandra Manning, director of the CDC's procurement and grants office, writes that "continued actions that are not consistent with Section 2500 will result in a disallowance or discontinuation

of federal funding" to the agency. Stop AIDS receives nearly \$700,000 in federal funds.

Gerberding, in her letter, lists five actions her agency will be taking to enforce the rules. They include notifying all grantees of their obligations to comply with the federal guidelines; revising CDC guidance given to grantees to provide "clear and specific instructions" about compliance with the rules; intensifying scrutiny of grantee activities to determine compliance with the rules; and requiring all grantees to certify they are complying with the revised CDC guidelines. The CDC also intends to conduct reviews of grantees to ensure they are meeting the new guidelines.

Along with intensifying pressure on AIDS agencies, Gerberding intends to "take action to ensure that accountable state or local health officials independently review federally-funded HIV prevention materials for compliance."

CDC actions moot?

Stop AIDS and San Francisco health officials counter that the CDC's recent actions are moot, because the programs in question were funded by city dollars and not federal funds. According to Stop AIDS, the three workshops cost approximately \$500 each and the costs were billed directly to the city, not the federal agency.

"These were general fund con-

tracts which makes the letters from the CDC even more troublesome given the fact they are general fund contracts," said Jimmy Loyce, deputy director of health for AIDS programs for the city. "They are not funded by CDC dollars so there is nothing to cease and desist from."

David Evans, Stop AIDS' program director, said he believes the CDC has overstepped its bounds and that the agency is discussing if it can take legal action against what Stop AIDS sees as harassment.

"This only makes a certain kind of discrimination more visible and not hidden at just the local level any more. Frankly, I don't think they will be happy until our organization closes its doors," said Evans. "If the CDC moves forward in insisting on a Department of Public Health official signing off on everything, there is something about that that invalidates the local material review board process."

Joseph Itiel, author of several books on male prostitution, including *Sex Workers as Virtual Boyfriends*, conducted the workshop about sex with escorts. Itiel, who at 72 years old is HIV-negative and sexually active, told the B.A.R. that his workshop is an appropriate prevention tool.

"Stop AIDS gives options to people where safe sex is discussed and I did discuss safe sex at

length," said Itiel. "My subject was singled out because the powers that be don't view prostitution in a positive light."

In fact, argues Itiel, sleeping with a sex worker is a way to engage in safe sex. "If you pick up a sex worker, you have complete control of the situation. No sex worker is going to say to you 'Let's bareback,'" said Itiel. "If you go to a sex club, you can have sex with say 10 people who had sex with another 10 people. If you go to a sex worker, you couldn't afford to see someone 10 times a day. Plus, he has less sex and is exposed to fewer diseases, logically."

Yet such frank talk about sex draws the ire of conservatives in Washington, who not only argue such topics violate federal rules but are not based on sound science. Even with the latest action taken by the CDC, Republican lawmakers continue to ask for scientific evidence that prove workshops on escorts and anal sex prevent the spread of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

"I think the CDC's focus on obscenity is a political decision by the agency. We have repeatedly asked for proof that these programs are effective and they instead find proof that the programs are obscene," said Souder aide Roland Foster in an e-mail to the B.A.R. "CDC may be trying to avoid the scientific debate over effectiveness by creating a political debate about obscenity. What is really obscene is that an agency entrusted with hundreds of millions of dollars to prevent HIV has no proof that its programs are effective when statistics indicate that they are not effective."

CDC flip-flop

Gerberding's objections to the Stop AIDS workshops comes four months after she notified both the agency and Souder that reviews by the CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General found that Stop AIDS' programs were based on sound scientific practices. Those reviews stemmed from objections raised by former Inspector General Janet Rehnquist, who raised concerns last year that Stop AIDS' programs could be construed as obscene.

The merry-go-round of opinions has kept Stop AIDS under a federal microscope for nearly two years, with countless hours spent defending its policies, tactics, and bookkeeping to federal investigators. The imbroglio has also ensnared officials at the health department's AIDS Office who have had to answer countless questions from federal officials regarding their oversight and approval of Stop AIDS' programs.

"I think this is just a new form of harassment. I think that clearly there are some people who are quite determined to shut us down," said Stop AIDS spokeswoman Shana Krochmal. "If one strategy doesn't work, say a health and human services audit, they manage to get us audited again. Yet we come out with flying colors because there is nothing to be found. The strategy that seems to be emerging is for our opponents to circle around and try a different mode of attack."

"I think that we became the scapegoat because there was some idea that we were so to the left of even most AIDS organizations we would be the easy one to pick off first," added Krochmal. "Not only were we more cutting edge or radical than other groups, I honestly think there was a miscalculation that since we do sexually implicit work we can't add somehow or can't keep our books. It was a key strategic error on their part. We

have some of the best recordkeeping of any agency in the country."

Foster counters that the subcommittee is not interested in shutting down the agency. He said the subcommittee only wants to see the proof to substantiate Stop AIDS' claims its workshops are effective.

"It is a silly premise that the agency would be shut down because the city has already said that it will fund Stop AIDS Project if the CDC does not. All we expect from the Stop AIDS Project is to provide scientific evidence that their federally funded programs are effective in preventing HIV/STDs and that they comply with federal laws and regulations. These are reasonable expectations," said Foster.

With rates of syphilis, as well as other STDs on the rise within the gay community, and HIV rates continuing to be at epidemic levels, Foster said the numbers indicate current HIV prevention methods are not working.

When asked what would be acceptable rates of HIV transmission, Foster responded, "The ideal would be no new infections. But a reasonable expectation would be at the very least a sustained decline in new infections. Despite significant increases in HIV prevention funding, we have not seen a decline in HIV rates in well over a decade. And now the CDC believes rates may be increasing."

Loyce counters that only a vaccine would provide for 100 percent elimination of transmission rates, and without such a vaccine in existence, it is absurd to expect HIV prevention messages to completely curb the rates of HIV.

"First of all, there is no prevention strategy ever created that absolutely, 100 percent stops any transmission of any viral infection in our time," he said. "When you go out into the community doing the kind of work Stop AIDS does and other prevention work agencies do, some things have to be looked at over time. If you look at the history of the epidemic, there was a huge drop in infections in the mid to late 1990s and we had a spike in the year 2000."

"We did have evidence that prevention strategies were working. But you can't use the prevention strategies you were using in 1985 or 1993 in the year 2003," added Loyce. "You have a different group of people now. For Souder or anyone else to suggest a direct correlation on prevention strategy should be a 100 percent drop in infection rates, well, it is absolutely nuts."

City response

Loyce said he is meeting with Stop AIDS officials as well as Steven Tierney, the city's director of HIV prevention, to discuss the best way to respond to the CDC's latest complaints. Though he added he doesn't see much reason to "get into the ongoing paper exchange."

"We will work with Stop AIDS in giving some response to the CDC," he said. "Whether we respond directly to this letter I don't think is required. They didn't ask us to do anything."

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who intends to hold a public hearing on HIV prevention in the coming months, said he would send a letter to Souder inviting him to discuss his concerns about Stop AIDS and defend the city's approach to HIV prevention.

"My message will be straightforward: to be consistent. The Republican Congress has emphasized local control, and in this case, that is what we are talking about. San Francisco has a message that best meets our needs for HIV prevention," said Dufty, who

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\$2M in AIDS funds on chopping block

by Joe Dignan

Unless San Francisco supervisors act, the mayor's lean-times city budget will cut approximately \$2 million from HIV/AIDS services paid for by the general fund.

To put that number in perspective, the cuts make up .042 percent of the entire \$4.7 billion budget, 1 percent of the approximately \$2 billion the city plans to spend on payroll alone, or .68 percent of the \$298 million the San Francisco Police Department will spend this year.

"It really isn't a great deal of money in the larger context of the budget," said Dana Van Gorder of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The money, however, pays for programs like SFAF's information hotline, counseling for HIV-positive people at the AIDS Health Project, the entire volunteer program at Shanti, and almost all of the back-to-work programs at Positive Resource Center.

Advocates say the money goes for programs that save lives and, in some cases, save the city money over the long term.

The biggest hit, more than \$400,000, would be to Shanti's volunteer program. Executive Director Hywel Sims said that if the cuts go through, Shanti would have to lay off five staff members who coordinate the organization's 150 volunteers.

Sims said that they help 1,200 HIV-positive clients with practical tasks, like shopping and cleaning, and give emotional support to the

often homebound patients. He said the cuts are a false economy because of the high value of services the volunteers provide, just for the cost of coordination.

A \$383,000 cut to AIDS Health Project would nix all the funding for its group therapy programs for HIV-positive people. AHP Executive Director Jim Dilley said that being diagnosed with a potentially fatal illness can produce psychological devastation in patients, ruining their ability to work and lead productive lives. He predicted that many of these clients would end up going to the psychiatric ward at San Francisco General Hospital, where the costs of treatment are much higher.

Positive Resource Center would lose \$140,000 it uses to help HIV-positive people go back to work. Executive Director Brett Andrews said most of the people the program serves have dual or triple diagnoses of HIV disease along with mental illness or drug addiction. He said the organization would have to lay off three staff members.

"We get people off of GA [general assistance]. We make them taxpayers. They get living wage jobs," Andrews said, and so, he claims, the program saves the city money in the long term. "We had 183 long-term placements last year. We took them off the welfare rolls and put them in living wage jobs with benefits."

Other proposed cuts would eliminate some of the housing subsidies for HIV-positive people administered by SFAF.

The proposed cuts are all in programs that are administered by



Jane Philomen Cleland

These Shanti supporters have fun aboard the Eureka ferryboat, docked at the Hyde Street Pier at the organization's seventh annual Casino Party fundraiser Saturday, June 14. Shanti may face staff layoffs if city budget cuts are made to AIDS services.

the San Francisco Department of Public Health and are part of a \$20 million package of cuts to the department's budget. Of that, approximately \$5.2 million would be cut from substance abuse programs, citywide.

Some of these programs are targeted at the LGBT community both at SFGH and at New Leaf. The substance abuse programs are in the news because of what Supervisor Bevan Duffy called an epidemic of methamphetamine use in the gay community.

Duffy called a special hearing of the board's City Services Committee to address the problem on May 21. At the meeting, he called meth "one of the most serious challenges we face," and said that the drug is

decimating the community.

In addition to the dangers of the drug itself, many epidemiologists have linked meth use with increased rates of HIV infection because of the unsafe sex practices it promotes.

But the real story around the budget cuts in San Francisco is what is most likely not getting cut. What are the expensive programs with which the Board of Supervisors dare not tangle?

"Fire and police are the smoking guns, and they are sacred cows. They pretty much get whatever they want. I think that's true in most communities. It's especially true here," said Jim Chappell, president of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research

Association.

Chappell cites the example of the suggestion that San Francisco close a few firehouses to save money. He said a study that the city commission during the Feinstein administration said that the city would get better and quicker service - for less money - with fewer but better equipped firehouses in better locations. He said that reviving that suggestion produced a rally and a series of billboards, produced by the firefighters union against the proposal, and brought two mayoral candidates to the stump. Supervisor Gavin Newsom vowed that not a single firehouse would be closed if he were elected mayor. Candidate Angela Alioto even suggested that the city should open new ones.

According to data from the city controller's office, San Francisco's police and fire budgets grew 33.5 percent during the Brown administration to budget year 2002-2003. During the same time the city's resident population remained about constant.

And the unions are feeling their oats. At the moment the San Francisco Police Officers Association is refusing to accept a 7.5 percent pension giveback which all of the other city's unions have accepted, according to Ken Bruce in the Board of Supervisors budget office. The potential savings? About \$11.5 million, according to Bruce, which is more than five times the proposed cuts to AIDS services.

POA President Chris Cunniff did not return calls seeking comment. ▼

Stop AIDS

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will be visiting D.C. next month and hopes to meet with Souder. "We don't need Washington, D.C., trying to restrict our ability to provide meaningful prevention services."

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), the House minority leader and a longtime supporter of Stop AIDS, also intends to place pressure on the CDC for its latest complaints about the agency. Pelosi, along with Congressman Henry Waxman (D-California), have urged federal health officials not to be influenced by political pressures in approaching HIV prevention.

"We thought this matter had been settled four months ago when Dr. Gerberding wrote her letter exonerating Stop AIDS for its work," said Dan Bernal, Pelosi's deputy district director. "Congresswoman Pelosi is working with Democratic members of the Government Reform Committee to develop a response and ask the CDC to explain their decision."

In the meantime, the health department is looking at switching programs currently funded by the city with Stop AIDS programs funded through the CDC in order to try to once and for all end the debate about the agency's prevention methods.

"I do think it would be savvy of us to use general funds for those projects on the edge. It is not news that conservative forces influence how the federal government pays for programs," said health director Dr. Mitch Katz. "In terms of these workshops, getting these only on general funds instead of federal dollars is the most effective way to stem the criticism."

While Katz said he agrees with Gerberding that tax dollars should not be used to promote sex, he does disagree with her determination that Stop AIDS' programs do just that.

"I don't believe these HIV prevention workshops promote sex. Knowing the titles and contents of the workshops, I think the titles are used as an engagement strategy to bring people in," said Katz. "I don't think the average taxpayer wishes to pay for encouraging people to have sex. But I don't see these workshops doing that."

Nor is he fearful of the CDC's plans to increase enforcement, Katz said. While the city may appear in conservatives' eyes to be lax in allowing for cutting edge programs to occur, he said some things have been found questionable and deemed unsuitable.

"I have sat on internal review panels and I have asked agencies to change content. Usually because I thought they were using sexually explicit material for no purpose. In the same way you might see a movie that is using a sexualized scene for no purpose as opposed to using the scene in advancing the plot," explained Katz.

Whether this latest episode will finally end the debate over Stop AIDS' programs remains to be seen. Though with Republicans in control of Congress and the White House, most AIDS activists expect the fight over HIV prevention to continue.

"I would like to be done with this topic," said Loyce. "As long as there are those advocates in San Francisco who continue to feed the fire people like Roland Foster and Souder have in their belly about the kind of work we do here in San Francisco, you will have this kind of debate every three months." ▼

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Thom Lynch

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will earn an annual salary of \$105,000.

Lynch was in charge of the processes that keep Project Open Hand running. "He's awfully good at systems," Nolan said. His responsibilities included both of the organization's kitchens and food distribution warehouses.

Fundraising for the cash strapped LGBT Community Center will be a major part of Lynch's job. But other than some volunteer work for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, his professional fundraising experience dates from his time at the San Francisco Food Bank, almost a decade ago, where he raised money from foundations and corporations.

The community center's development efforts have flagged since it opened, with contributions between one-third and one-half of what they were during the capital campaign prior to opening.

"That hasn't been a part of what he did at Open Hand," Nolan said. "But he's not afraid to ask for money."

Nolan said that Lynch has excellent entrepreneurial talents, having built a partnership with the California Culinary Academy while at Project Open Hand, and that he is likely to forge partnerships with businesses at the center.

Lynch will have a lot of help from San Francisco's political establishment. Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who built his early political career raising money for many charities and was very successful in attracting donors to the center's capital campaign, has vowed to help. So has

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, in whose district the center lies.

"Help?" Dufty asked. "I'll be getting people who should be invested in the center to invest in it."

"A lot of the major businesses don't know [that I'm working on this] yet, and most of them don't read the Bay Area Reporter. But that's good. They won't know not to take my calls in the next few months — everything from the 49ers to small business. I'm going to be shaking them down."

Dufty said that because San Francisco's LGBT community is so varied, the center is not going to be a panacea and probably won't serve all of its possible constituencies.

"But it needs to be a strong and vibrant center, and it has to be financially sound," Dufty said.

"We're ready to move forward," Dufty added. "There's been a lot of reflection. Thom has a vision of where we need to go to secure the center for the long term."

Lynch said part of that vision involves getting some long term anchor tenants into the center. The board has resisted that idea, preferring instead to rent out the center's rooms by the day or by the hour. That policy has left the building with very low occupancy rates, with each of the building's 17 meeting rooms rented for as little as nine or 10 hours a week.

"It's an ideal situation," Lynch said in a recent interview with the B.A.R. "If an agency is renting space in the center — they're investing money in the community, rather than some landlord in New York or Boston."

He also said he hopes to expand the membership base by offering premiums donated by major corporations. "We will have 1,000 new members in the first

year," he said. "I'm very goal oriented."

Lynch also expects to take advantage of corporate sponsorship for marketing opportunities in the center.

As to the center's dormant cafe space, Lynch said he would have a tenant within six months, and have the cafe operating within a year. Nolan said that Project Open Hand will bid on developing and operating the cafe space at the center that has sat vacant since the center opened.

Major challenge

But Lynch's major challenge will be to secure money for programming at the center.

"We can't get people to pay our PG&E bills or our insurance premiums," Lynch said, "but they will pay for specific programs."

"We're not going to try and duplicate programs that already exist in the community," he added.

But he hopes to build programs to promote San Francisco's LGBT businesses and promote gay tourism — including a possible tourism center and a tourist house exchange program.

Lynch faces the daunting task of restarting an organization that has floundered during the 15 months since its gala opening last spring. While the center has hosted several watershed events during its first year — the late gay rights pioneer Harry Hay's 90th birthday party, an emotional tribute to AIDS quilt founder Cleve Jones and rainbow flag creator Gilbert Baker, and hundreds of classes by the Harvey Milk Institute and City College — the center has not become the hub of the city's LGBT activities that its planners had dreamed of — and promised its donors.

And no wonder. The center is, by the standards of large community organizations, very, very young. The community centers on which it is modeled, New York's and Los Angeles', have been in existence for at least two decades. While they are giant now, they started small. Their programs and services grew slowly, evolving with the needs of their communities.

But San Francisco's center started big, with a \$15.5 million building, a budget of \$2.7 million, (which would have made it the third largest community center in the country), and as of the end of last year, a giant \$2.3 million bank debt.

Its founders and board had big expectations, but those expectations didn't have much to do with the reality of the center's financial situation. As of April 30 the center had managed income of only \$840,000 — about a third of what it had anticipated for the fiscal year. But it took the board months to recognize the problem. And over a year to do anything about it.

What happened?

"Our income was not where we projected it to be," said board co-chair Scott Wiener.

It appears that the board counted on donations for ongoing operations to continue at the same rate as donations during the capital campaign for the building.

Raising money for operations is different than for a building campaign, Lynch explained. People who give money for buildings can get a plaque on the wall. People who give money for programs have different motivations, he said, "and they're different people."

Wiener wouldn't lay any specific blame for the calamity on the development staff — in fact he has refused the B.A.R.'s request to interview development director Melinda Capariso — and wouldn't give any explanations as to why it took the board so long to do anything about the problem. What is clear, however, is that between March 2002 and March 2003 the center was spending like a \$3 million organization, but earning like a \$1 million one. The result: losses of \$642,000 in eight months.

In March the center let go about one-third of its workers and now, according to Wiener, is "cash neutral" — even though it is continuing to use incoming building fund pledge money, which might have gone to pay down the debt, to fund operations.

Muddy mission

Most of the problems stem

from the center's muddy mission statement.

"The community center will be home to a dynamic range of organizations and activities," the statement says, "that support individual LGBTQ people of every race, gender, age, and socioeconomic status in their efforts to achieve a positive sense of identity, purpose, social support and well-being."

According to Wiener, when the board started the process of planning the center, to win the support of other community organizations they were forced to be very careful not to offend the groups that were already providing services.

Many of the essential services on which community centers in other cities were built — youth programs, mental health counseling and HIV/AIDS services — were already being offered by other agencies.

So the center decided to be a landlord.

"It's relatively easy to raise money for specific important programs," said one fundraiser, who declined to be identified. "If you can say, 'We provide food for people with AIDS,' for example, it's easy to make a case to a funder. But it's not so easy to raise money for a support organization like the center has become."

Lynch vows to involve the community in the planning process for a reinvigorated center.

"I'm coming in with a blank slate," he said. "I want to hear what people have to say. The first thing I'm going to do is just listen."

He said he would start his administration with a series of town hall meetings to take input as to what the center should be doing.

He said his big job will be to resolve the center's financial crisis.

"It's not rocket science. I'm pretty good with budgets. I enjoy the challenge of meeting a budget. It makes me a geek," he said.

Then, he said, his challenge will be to reconcile what he hears with the reality of the center's finances.

"You have to make hard choices, between what you can afford and what people want," he said. "I hate to say it, but there's no way I'm not going to piss someone off!" ▼

The public is invited to a reception at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, on Tuesday, June 24 from 6-8 p.m. to welcome Lynch to his new job.

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have been victimized by Abegglen, including his roommate who met Abegglen before he moved in with Grudus.

Grudus said that although he was fortunate Abegglen racked up only \$105 in credit charges, he's most afraid of what Abegglen allegedly did to his computer. He said he let him use it and in the process Abegglen allegedly hacked into several of his files and programs. He said that Abegglen wanted to check his e-mail and said he could tune up the computer so it wouldn't crash so much when he was in chat rooms.

"It was just amazing to me how sweet and nice a person he was," said Grudus referring to Abegglen's approach to gain his confidence.

"I have no ill feelings for this person," he added. "It was a good wake-up call. If I am going to bring home strangers from a Web site, I need to be more careful."

But Grudus added: "I am going to do whatever I can to press charges. He's been getting away with it again and again." ▼

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You're all a bunch of queers!

by Steven Bender

Several weeks ago I found myself at the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic for my regular HIV test. When it came time for the embarrassing pre-test interview ("Have you had anal sex in the last six months? Shared needles? Performed oral sex on a member of Congress?"), and I was asked my sexual orientation, I was pleasantly surprised that "queer" is now given as an option — and I

doubt that I'm the only person happy to claim the distinction.

But what is that distinction, exactly? I think the term "queer" is gaining popularity, particularly among young people, because it's less limiting as a label for sexual identity.

Now, mind you, when I first came out nine years ago, it took me a while to get comfortable with any label. The first few friends I told anything to got, "I'm sexually attracted to guys." The big "G" was still too scary for my lips

to form; my pals referred to me as gay but initially I would only meekly affirm their terminology. Yet as soon as I owned the word "gay," I felt shackled by it. Some friends said I didn't "act gay" enough. And what if, some day, I should want to have sex with a woman? Would some "gay police" revoke my license? I never ruled out the possibility of having sex with any gender, but to claim myself "bisexual" seemed to imply that I was actively seeking partners of both genders, when really, I was just looking for guys. Besides, every time I tried telling people I was bi, I seemed to end up giving a few girlfriends false hopes. So I was stuck with gay — or so it seemed.

Flash forward five years; I moved out of the 'burbs and into an urban center with a true gay scene, a gay ghetto, and a much more visible gay community. I started meeting a lot more gay and lesbian people my own age, and I started meeting some people who identified as queer. I took a liking to the idea immediately; for starters, it was reclaiming an epithet and turning it into something positive, much as lesbians have now made being a dyke a thing of empowerment. Plus there's something kind of ballsy and punk rock about it: "Yeah, I'm queer." It sounds like you're daring anyone to make something of it.

The Webster's New College Dictionary defines "queer" as,

among other things, "differing from what is usual or ordinary; odd; singular; strange ... having mental quirks; eccentric." In today's world of gay politics and assimilationist arguments — "We're just like you! Accept us! Love us!" — the old slogan of "We're here! We're queer! Get used to it!" harkens back to a time not so long ago when our civil rights struggle meant we were fighting for acceptance despite our deviations, not trying to convince people that we're "normal."

After all, if heterosexuality and the propagation of the species is considered "usual or ordinary" (and come on, it's a pretty reasonable tenet), then those of us buggering boys in our bedrooms certainly do seem to fit the definition of queer. Why should we be afraid of our differences, our eccentricities? I've been queer my whole life, irrefutably; I've always felt deviant, separate from the norms of society in all sorts of ways, more than just sexually. Many of us who grew up feeling alienated later learned to take pride in being outsiders; I believe that could be one reason the queer identity is becoming more popular.

I think we all know what the terms "gay sex" and "lesbian sex" entail. So what, then, do you take "queer sex" to be? Any sexual act could be made queer by the right people, or perhaps the right position or setting. Is a straight, married couple who likes to role-play in the bedroom really all that straight? Is a male-to-female

transsexual going down on her girlfriend inarguably having lesbian sex? And what about me? I've been in three-ways and more with all sorts of guy-girl combinations, interacting with people of both sexes to various extents; I've had vaginal intercourse with an FTM; I want a boyfriend, but I always reserve the right to make out with my girlfriends. I'd say that makes me certifiably queer — it doesn't mean I'm not primarily chasing guys, but neither does it mean I'm absolutely limiting myself to them. So far as labels go, "queer" allows for a great deal of personal freedom and interpretation.

Perhaps that's why some people approach the term with such reticence. Many would like everything in the world to be easily categorized, labeled, and filed away, but the world isn't that simple, especially not humans. And as lovely and politically correct as the ever-expanding roster of terms is in our community, eventually it may just become too complicated. I've heard some people argue that LGBT should be expanded to include QQ (queer/questioning) — like some sort of increasingly complicated-sounding sandwich — but my dream is that someday everyone, including our breeder brothers and sisters, can embrace the inherent "queerness" within us all. ▼

Steven Bender is a poet, writer, dancer, barista, and queer wit who's been living in San Francisco for about a year. He can be reached at orpheusrabbit@gay.com.

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Generation Q



magnet

'Fresh Meat' offers plenty to chew on

by Zak Szymanski

It's back. Renowned for its rhythmic and impassioned debut last year, the Bay Area's queer multimedia and multidisciplinary variety show, "Fresh Meat," returns to the ODC Theater this Friday through Sunday to showcase its "sexy smorgasbord of talent," according to organizers.

Part of the National Queer Arts Festival, Fresh Meat made news in 2002 for not only offering one of the most diverse lineups of any LGBT production around, but for redefining the artistic standards of what one might expect from such an inclusive, grassroots effort.

Many local activists will appear on stage to showcase their performance sides; several artists hold day jobs at agencies such as Community United Against Violence and Projeto ContraSIDA Por Vida.

Homo hip-hop, tranny glam rock, trailblazing modern dance, all-girl breakdance, steamy tango, power femme spoken word, and the world's first transgender gospel choir will all be featured.

"For me, Fresh Meat is a new-school revolutionary trans and queer variety show," said Shawna Virago, a CUAV advocate by day and rock star by night. "It's rewriting the rules of what kind of artists should share a bill."

Sean Dorsey, Fresh Meat's founder and producer, concurred.

"Queer and trans performance companies and projects tend to isolate disciplines," said Dorsey, an acclaimed modern dancer. "I



"Fresh Meat" founder Sean Dorsey

wanted to create something that would bring breakdance together with modern dance, gospel together with hip-hop, and tango side by side with rock and roll."

Fresh Meat headliners include Dorsey; the rock band Shawna Virago and the Deadly Nightshade Family; the women of color troupe Harlem Shake Burlesque; tango duo Jose Navarrete and Debby Kajayama; JenRO; trans-rapper Katastrope, the trans-masculine troupe Other Brothers; the dance company Steamroller; breakdancers Sisterz of the Underground; and the gospel choir Transcendence. Emcees are Veronica Combs of Liquid Fire and hip-hop spoken word artist Marcus Van, who will also be performing together for the first time. DJ Trinity will spin tunes.

Tickets to Fresh Meat are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door, and are available by calling (415) 863-9834 or visiting www.ticketweb.com. Fresh Meat runs June 20-22 at 8 p.m. at the ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, at Shotwell. The production also needs volunteers; e-mail freshmeatperformance@hotmail.com for more information. ▼

OBITUARIES

Tom (Thomas) Depue
July 27, 1945 — June 2, 2003



Tom was born in the state of Iowa. He received a BA Degree in Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music in 1972. He was not only very proud of his accomplishment in the field of music but also of the fact that he built a harpsichord. Tom's recitals included such great pieces as Scarlatti Sonata in E Major and E Minor, Handel Suite 5 in E Major, and Rameau Suite in E Major. He also mastered the organ works of Scriabin and Olivier Messiaen who are regarded as the Bach of the 20th century.

After a successful career as a Pro-

gram Analyst and a System Analyst, Tom moved to San Francisco in October 1996. At age 50 he became to the amazement and delight of his many friends a successful Professional Massage Therapist, a career that took him around the world.

In March 2002, Tom had surgery due to lung cancer. My special thanks to friends who helped assist him through recovery.

Brilliant, charming, erudite, very masculine and personality-plus Tom Depue was an icon in the gay life in San Francisco and the world.

Contributions in Tom's honor can be made to the American Lung Society or your favorite charity.

Marie Kiefel

At age 85, Marie passed away in peace on June 6th from a prolonged ill-



ness. She was a devoted, caring friend to many of us here in San Francisco. Following the death of her son Bill Coates she became active in the AIDS support group for parents dealing with the disease.

She lived and worked in the Castro for nearly 30 years. She loved bingo at church and being with friends. Sadly, she will be missed, but cherished in our memories.

A memorial service will be held at 12 noon on Saturday, June 28th at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., with a reception following.

Marie's ashes will be laid to rest along with her husband in Long Island.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

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Pilot project IDs HIV close to the point of infection

by Bob Roehr

Very early identification of new HIV infections can reduce further transmission of the virus and offer a unique opportunity to intervene to protect immune function, according to a report published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on May 28.

Primary HIV infection (PHI) is that brief window of perhaps eight weeks, from exposure to the development of antibodies, when viral load is sky high, generally into the millions. Many experts have come to believe that at least half of all new transmissions are passed on during this window.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services initiated a screening and tracing active transmission (STAT) program last November to identify these new infections. Over the first six months it identified 17 people who were negative for the standard antibody screening for HIV but positive for the actual RNA of the virus. Four of them developed flu-like symptoms of acute HIV infection after their blood was drawn for the test, indicating that they had become infected only days earlier.

In an interview in Raleigh prior to publication of the article,



Christopher Pilcher

STAT co-chairs Christopher Pilcher and Peter Leone, both doctors and professors of medicine at the University of North Carolina, discussed the program at length.

"If we can identify some of [the newly infected] early on, there definitely are some health benefits," Leone said, pointing to the work of Harvard researcher Bruce Walker that showed how very early intervention can preserve immune function to better control the virus. "And if not a health benefit, hopefully identifying someone before they might unknowingly pass on the virus to other folks."

The flu-like symptoms of PHI, or acute infection, often are indistinguishable from many other

maladies, said Pilcher, and doctors often don't recognize them. "But once a primary care doc does start to make the diagnosis, they learn to see it" and order a PCR or viral load test when they suspect the possibility of PHI.

About half of the patients identified through STAT have decided to begin antiretroviral therapy, with a quarter each deciding to enter a clinical trial or go with a private physician. It is too early to evaluate the effect of this early intervention.

None of the infected men self-identified on pre-test questionnaires as gay or bisexual or men having sex with men, yet that was the route of their infection. This led Pilcher to conclude, "the number of MSM infections that are occurring is vastly underreported."

The team went back to records starting in 2001 and identified 28 cases of PHI. From that larger sample they are beginning to see patterns of infection tied to college campuses, but they are not yet prepared to go public with that limited data.

Pilcher says the STAT program moves surveillance much closer to the point of infection than standard screening techniques. "It allows you to track it and do something about it, and find out what interventions are effective." ▼

Latino competition honors safe sex message

by Matthew S. Bajko

Feeling discrimination for being transgender in her homeland of Guatemala, Claudia Yvette Cabrera-Lara ended up in San Francisco, alone and still fearful to express her true gender identity.

Then she entered into the Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino contest and found the voice she had been searching for all along.

"It was like empowering me," she said of her experience competing in two of the competitions. "I left my country because of who I am, a transsexual woman. I didn't have the freedom to express myself without any danger in Guatemala."

In America on asylum due to the hatred she faced back home, Cabrera-Lara is now helping other Latino transgenders find their own voices and acceptance within their community for breaking out of traditional gender roles.

As coordinator of this year's Miss and Mr. Gay Safe Latino, the soft-spoken Cabrera-Lara is help-

ing to educate local Latinos not only about the transgender community, but how to protect themselves from being infected with HIV. The yearly pageant, sponsored by Instituto Familiar De La Raza, aims not only to crown a king and queen but to spread a safe sex gospel to a captive audience.

"It is still a taboo to be talking about sex" Cabrera-Lara said of the Latino community. "There is still stigma and people think HIV infection is just for the gay community. Of course it is not."

Through its yearly pageant competition, the Mission-based nonprofit has found an entertaining format to educate the community about the dangers of unsafe sex and HIV transmission. Along with a talent and evening wear competition, contestants must answer questions about safe sex and HIV.

The event has become so popular, attracting both a gay and straight audience, it now takes place at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre to accommodate the large crowd.

Along with its educational as-

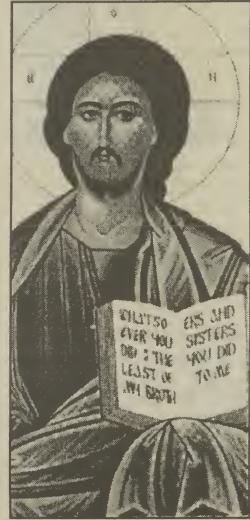
pect, the event also serves to help Latino men looking for a safe way to express a different gender.

"Some of the men participating this year define themselves as gay men. Some are exploring the possibility of being transsexual for the first time," said Cabrera-Lara.

The agency will also hand out its Ollin Awards during the contest. The awards honor distinguished agencies and individual activists who support and work on LGBT community wellness. This year the agency will hand out the Gwen Araujo Ollin Award to honor the East Bay transgender teen killed last year.

The contest, conducted in Spanish with English translation, will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, June 27 and tickets cost \$10. A dollar from each ticket sold will go to support a Latino gay and lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous program sponsored by Instituto.

Buses will leave from Instituto's offices at 2919 Mission Street to ferry people over to the Marina for the event. To purchase tickets, or for more information, call (415) 647-4141. ▼



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The road to normal

by Jim Provenzano

The Supreme Court that installed the (p)resident is once again debating the legality of our ability to copulate in the state from which its chosen one emerged.

Thousands of citizens are e-petitioning, hoping that the robed wonders may actually be enlightened by our e-pinions.

Funny how this happens again during Pride month, as if the justices have to offer their gaveled opinions on our right to live just to spoil the party.

Meanwhile, while it's great to celebrate our differences this month; our queerocity, our gaydar, our sapphic symbiosis, it's also nice to sometimes celebrate our inclusion into a relatively normal mainstream world, like (hopefully) being able to boink in a Motel 6 in Austin.

Wax on, wax out

Our lesbian French tennis champion Amelie Mauresmo, 23, is now the first tennis player on display at the Greve Wax Museum in Paris.

Mauresmo was on hand as her likeness was unveiled in late May. She came out a few years ago to some acclaim in the GLBT community, and got a slightly hostile response from a few in her sport.

Mauresmo said she was "wounded" in 1999 when tennis player Martina Hingis called her "half a man," and competitor Lindsay Davenport made fun of her "guy" shoulders. For a while, Mauresmo said, she refrained from showing her shoulders in public.

Fortunately, she got over the bigoted remarks of others, and



Off the shoulder: Amelie Mauresmo waxes poetic.

continues to play without scandal, or controversy, other than the self-created kind, like when she recently posed topless for the cover of *Paris Match* magazine.

Marlinormality

In another case of the gay community and the professional sports world coexisting in a, well, normal way, the Florida Marlins made history this month when they became the first major American professional sports franchise to start a long term advertising campaign with a gay newspaper.

The Express, the largest gay weekly newspaper in Florida, and the Marlins have entered into a season long promotion, which will culminate in an AIDS Awareness Night on August 11.

Sean Flynn, the vice president of marketing for the Florida Marlins, announced that the team's initiative is one more effort to "adopt a policy of inclusion for all South Florida sports fans."

The team, in an effort to boost attendance this year, has engaged in a popular \$2.5 million dollar marketing campaign. Playing better baseball seems secondary.

Norm Kent, publisher of the Express, said it was "something I really wanted to see. It is important to show the gay community as active participants in all aspects of our society, from finance and real estate to sports and leisure."

Kent applauded the Marlins for "stepping up to the plate and going to bat for the gay community. It is now time for us to support their team."

The Commercial Closet Web site follows market trends in advertising directed at the gay and lesbian market, and has a lot of amusing ads to view and download.

Michael Wilke, founder of CommercialCloset.org, called it, "another step toward the parity of interests between the gay market and sports teams and is contrary to the stereotypes that gay men aren't interested in sports."

Or at least just interested in a few cute players here and there.

As part of the advertising package, the Marlins will receive a quarter page ad each week in the Express, from now till the end of the season.

Do you think they'll have to have the players pose shirtless to get gay fans to go? Couldn't hurt.

Tales on wheels

Wanna go for a ride? How about a ride through literary history?

The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books are teaming up to celebrate Pride month with a bike tour of Armistead Maupin's San Francisco.

Few writers since Dashiell Hammett have captured the city from top to bottom, from Grace Cathedral to Glide, from Perry's to the PU Club, the way Maupin has in his serial novels.

Come discover the real Barbary Lane, the site of the jockey shorts dance contest, the cliff where Norm met his end, and much, much more.

SFBC's ride last week trailed through the spots of local GLBT history. The cultural history bicycle tours are leisurely, non-athletic rides intended to explore interesting areas and issues on the most environmentally friendly and people-friendly form of transportation, the bicycle!

The tour starts this Saturday, June 21, noon-3 p.m., at A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness Avenue in Opera Plaza. For more information, visit www.sfbike.org.

Reality shows

SF Fog's Pride weekend rugby tournament takes place at the Presidio, the scenic former military base destined to become a George Lucas factory.

Saturday, June 28 marks the

Fog's first open tournament with teams and ruggers of any persuasion.

This promises to be a wild event, with a random assortment of ruggers (women and men), herding up for makeshift teams in an all-day rugger fest at Fort Scott (on Story Boulevard). Fans can watch for free.

You can also take part in SF Fog's rugby 101 clinic, Saturday,

June 21, 10:30 a.m. -

1:30 p.m., at Skunk Field (Herz Play-

ground). Or simply enjoy the company of Foggers at

their SF Eagle beer benefit,

Wednesday, June 25, with a

show by the hunky

rock/pop band

Ploughound. \$10.

Info and direc-

tions: www.sffog.org

or call (415) 267-6100.

Gay Pride weekend will also include a Frontrunners Fun Run on June 28 in Golden Gate Park. Join

dozens of distance runners, medalists, and recreational joggers in a variety of runs, followed by food and social fun. Sign up at www.sffrontrunners.org.

Walk of pride

If you attended the Sydney 2002 Gay Games, or are a local LGBT athlete, join the contingent behind the Team San Francisco banner.

Bring your sports banners, wear your uniforms, and bring out those Sydney 2002 medals.

Team SF's Ross Hayduk offers this colorful description: "Join volleyball and basketball players setting and passing, sailors carrying a sail, the Tsunami folks in their Speedos, even the hockey players on rollerblades. Help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Gay Games, by showing your pride in local LGBT sports."

Join Contingent #082, Sunday, June 29. Line up at 10 a.m. (to enter the parade at 10:40). Meet on Beale Street between Mission and Howard.

Visit www.teamsf.org for more info.

Think pink

Volunteer at Pink Saturday and raise money for Healing Waters,

the nonprofit rafting and adventure travel group that provides HIVers, cancer patients, and others a series of rafting and recreational day trips.

Healing Waters receives a \$50 donation for each volunteer they provide for Pink Saturday, and they need folks who can help out.

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence has once again invited the group to partner with them in providing volunteers to staff the gates and collect money at Pink Saturday, in the Castro, on June 28.

For each volunteer who works a three-hour shift, the Sisters will donate \$50 to Healing Waters. Volunteers get a fabulous black T-shirt with pink logo and exclusive access to the Green Room, free coffee, or cocktails.

Shifts are 7-10 p.m. and 9 p.m.-midnight. Call Karen at (415) 621-7529, ext. 2894. Info: www.hwaters.org.

Scrib-nit with the shiznit

Before things get jam-packed with festive Pride Eve pinkness, stop by A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street, on Saturday June 28, where writers from around the Bay Area will be on hand throughout the day to meet fans and sign books. I'll be hanging with Kirk Read (*How I Learned to Snap*) from 1:30 - 2 p.m. Info: www.adlbooks.com.

On Pride Day, Sunday June 29, lots of local writers and spoken word artists will be reading and performing, including me. The event will be hosted by Read and Michelle Tea (*Valencia*).

You can buy copies of several authors' signed books. Bound Together Bookstore's salesfolk will have copies of PINS and the German translation of PINS, published by Bruno Gmunder. Called *Wrestling Team*, it is, as expected, about 100 pages longer than the original.

Out Words: Written and spoken word stage (on Fulton Street between U.N. Plaza and the Asian Art Museum).

For full Pride events, visit www.spfire.org.

For full Bay Area and post-Gay Games sports articles (in normal HTML), visit www.sportscomplex.org. ▼

Migden (D); Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon; Sylvia Guerrero, the mother of slain transgender teenager Gwen Araujo; Secretary of State Kevin Shelley (D); and state Controller Steve Westly (D). Tickets are \$175 per person.

Finally, EQCA is working with the Freedom to Marry Coalition to distribute signs supporting AB205 for marchers to carry in the June 29 Pride Parade. Kors noted that any organization can carry the signs.

For more information, visit www.eqca.org or call (415) 581-0005. ▼

erties Union in an effort to get some legal assistance.

Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal, told the B.A.R. that he has spoken with Salinas about Carmichael's case, and that he has turned over documents to Lambda's legal department.

"We're looking at it," Cathcart said, "but I don't know what we'll be able to do. We do very little criminal work."

Carmichael, for his part, is not giving up.

"I'm not done fighting," he said. ▼

Equality Cal.

◀ page 4

over City Hall.

The group is also working with Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) on a community meeting. Leno, who chairs the Assembly Select Committee on LGBT Families, will hold the committee's first hearing on Tuesday, June 24, from 7-9 p.m. in San Francisco. Kors noted that he expects the hearing to focus on issues affecting queer youth and youth in LGBT families. The hearing is

open to the public. For the location, go to www.eqca.org.

EQCA is having its annual San Francisco benefit, the Equality Awards Dinner, on Thursday, June 26, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Westin St. Francis Hotel, 335 Powell Street. Special guests to be honored at "Celebrating Love, Life, and Legislation" include Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) and Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego); Assemblymen Leno and John Laird (D-Santa Cruz); state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica); Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole

open to the public. For the location, go to www.eqca.org.

Carmichael then was released on bail, while his sentence was appealed. The case has been winding its way through the appeals process ever since, but Carmichael's bid to review the conviction and jail sentence has been denied.

Following the conviction, Carmichael tried to get a new trial; Danner denied that motion.

In July 2001, Danner reduced Carmichael's felony battery conviction to a misdemeanor. The reduction meant that Carmichael

avoided a third strike conviction and Danner sentenced him to one year in jail.

Carmichael then was released on bail, while his sentence was appealed. The case has been winding its way through the appeals process ever since, but Carmichael's bid to review the conviction and jail sentence has been denied.

This week, Carmichael and his partner, former Bay Area Reporter news editor Mike Salinas, said they had approached Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the American Civil Lib-

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Carmichael

◀ page 4

Following a non-jury trial in January 2001, Danner found Carmichael guilty of a felony charge of battery on a peace officer causing injury.

Following the conviction, Carmichael tried to get a new trial; Danner denied that motion.

In July 2001, Danner reduced Carmichael's felony battery conviction to a misdemeanor. The reduction meant that Carmichael

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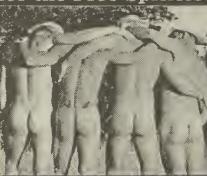
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Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available, please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

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The Immigrant Rights Commission consists of fifteen voting members. Eleven voting members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The other four voting members are appointed by the Mayor.

At least eight members shall be immigrants to the United States who are appointed in accordance with Section 4.101 of the Charter. The remaining members must have a demonstrated knowledge of and interest in the health, human service, educational, or employment issues that affect immigrants residing in San Francisco and shall reflect the geographic, ethnic, and sexual orientation population of San Francisco.

The term of each member of the Commission shall be two years, provided however that the members first appointed shall, by lot, classify their terms so that eight members shall serve a term of three years and seven members shall serve a term of two years. In the event a vacancy occurs during the term of office of any member, a successor shall be appointed to complete the unexpired term of the office vacated in a manner similar to that for the initial member.

The Immigrant Rights Commission shall advise and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor about issues affecting immigrants residing in San Francisco.

Report: The Commission shall render an annual written report pursuant to Ordinance No. 211-97.

Sunset Date: None

Compensation: None
Vacant seat 4, must have a demonstrated knowledge of and interest in the health, human service, educational, or employment issues that affect immigrants residing in San Francisco, for a two year term ending June 6, 2005.

Vacant seats 6, 7, 8 and 10 must be immigrants to the United States who are appointed in accordance with Section 4.101 of the Charter. In addition, members shall have a demonstrated knowledge of and interest in the health, human service, educational, or employment issues that affect immigrants residing in San Francisco, for a two year term ending June 6, 2005.

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0266991-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Dream Away Publishing, 1592 Stilwell Rd. Apt. B, San Francisco, Ca. 94129. This business is conducted by an individual signed Orin C. Carpenter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 19, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/19/2003.

MAY 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266900-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Club La Cantina Productions, 891 Post Street #402, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniel Flores Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 14, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/14/2003.

MAY 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 257805
The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Kidlat Productions. Located at: 46, Sixth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business was conducted by an individual signed Isidro M. Nova. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on May 17, 2002.

MAY 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540742

In the Matter of the Application of Stephen Andreas Charles. For change of Name. The application of Stephen Andreas Charles for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Diana Rosenthal has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Diana Alexandra Rosenthal. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266935-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Left My Heart Enterprises, 2160 Taylor Street, #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Randal Forrest White. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/15/2003.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540742

In the Matter of the Application of Stephen Andreas Charles. For change of Name. The application of Stephen Andreas Charles for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Diana Rosenthal has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Diana Alexandra Rosenthal. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 5th day of August at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267065-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lew And Mark Enterprises, 761 Jackson Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Albert L. Lew and Wah Fu Mark. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/21/2003.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267191-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Grab House At Pier 39, 203 C. Pier 39, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Jerry D. Bozzo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 23, 1998. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/29/2003.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CNC-03-540760

In the Matter of the Application of Devin Hernandez. For change of Name. The application of Devin Hernandez for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Devin Hernandez has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Devi Morrandez. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 5th day of August at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

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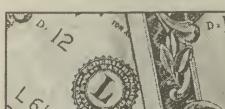
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JOB OFFERED

Job Openings TARC Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center

Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC) works with the community we serve to meet the HIV/AIDS prevention and care needs of the diverse residents of the Tenderloin. By applying principles of social justice through non-judgmental outreach, education, testing, client advocacy and practical direct services, TARC aims to lessen the incidence of HIV infection, disease progression and homelessness while respecting both the individuals we serve and the diversity of the Tenderloin community.

TARC needs qualified candidates to assist us in growing to meet our clients' needs.

Community Center Support

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$28,000 - \$33,000 annually, depending on experience

Tenderloin residents come to the community center to receive many TARC services, including peer advocacy, treatment information, breakfast, drop-in movies, syringe exchange, support groups, and volunteer opportunities. The community center serves as an outreach channel for TARC programs. In addition, the volunteer opportunities directly involve community members in agency operations. This is a critical element in the way TARC practices harm reduction principles.

The role of the volunteer ranges from supporting the community center to supporting office and program administration. The Community Center Support staff person works closely with the Community Center Coordinator to support the volunteer program and the community center. Willingness to work some evenings and weekends, requires daily start-time of 8:00am.

Responsibilities include community center support, volunteer coordination and support, and client activities coordination. Position requires at least 2 years experience or equivalent combination of training and experience in office clerical support.

Executive Assistant

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$35,000 - \$40,000 annually, depending on experience

The ideal candidate for this position will possess excellent verbal, written organizational, and analytical skills and a commitment to making our community a better place. Support to the Executive Director will be a key component of the position. Ability to work with other top-level management and deal with the public required. The Executive Assistant will perform a variety of administrative duties with the Executive Director (ED) regarding all aspects of the agency and executive director's responsibilities. This person will be exposed to all aspects of running the organization and have an opportunity to have a high impact on the agency. The position will also provide support in maintaining meeting minutes and logistics for the Board of Directors.

Health Educator

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$35,000 - \$33,000 annually, depending on experience

This position requires skills in developing and facilitating HIV/AIDS prevention education and related health workshops, performing street based outreach and providing HIV antibody testing and counseling for members of the Tenderloin Community in San Francisco.

Candidates should be able to demonstrate skills in conducting individual level HIV/AIDS prevention education; knowledge of HIV/AIDS and related issues; knowledge of substance use and mental health issues; a minimum of 3 years of experience working with diverse communities/populations; willingness to work evenings and weekends.

Transgender Health Educator

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$28,000 - \$32,000 annually, depending on experience

The Program Assistant provides administrative support to program directors and agency managers in operating systems to ensure timely reporting and documentation of client services and in maintaining the facilities to ensure client and staff safety and cultural competency and ADA compliance. The program assistant also provides backup coverage for reception. Willingness to work evenings and weekends is required. Position requires at least a Bachelor's degree and 2 years experience or equivalent combination of training and experience in office clerical support.

Program Assistant

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$28,000 - \$32,000 annually, depending on experience

The Program Assistant provides administrative support to program directors and agency managers in operating systems to ensure timely reporting and documentation of client services and in maintaining the facilities to ensure client and staff safety and cultural competency and ADA compliance. The program assistant also provides backup coverage for reception. Willingness to work evenings and weekends is required. Position requires at least a Bachelor's degree and 2 years experience or equivalent combination of training and experience in office clerical support.

Transgender Health Educator

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$30,000 - \$33,000 annually, depending on experience

The health promotion program focuses on the disease prevention aspect of TARC's mission. The transgender health educator specializes more specifically on the health promotion in the transgender community of the Tenderloin neighborhood. Responsibilities include outreach, group facilitation, client advocacy, documentation.

The position requires skills in developing and facilitating HIV/AIDS prevention education and related health workshops, performing street and community based outreach and providing HIV antibody testing and counseling for members of the Tenderloin neighborhood in San Francisco.

Candidates should be able to demonstrate skills in conducting individual level HIV/AIDS prevention education; knowledge of HIV/AIDS and related issues; knowledge of substance use and mental health issues; a minimum of 3 years of experience working with diverse communities/populations; willingness to work evenings and weekends.

TARC is an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to a culturally diverse work environment that reflects the make-up of the Tenderloin community. People with diverse personal experiences are urged to apply, especially people living with HIV, people of color, bi-lingual English/Spanish speakers, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, women, young people and residents of the Tenderloin neighborhood.

Additional bilingual English/Spanish differential is offered on most salaries.

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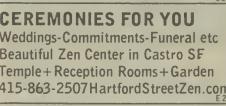


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STATEMENT FILE 0267286-00

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JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540767

In the Matter of the Application of Enoch D'Bau. For change of Name. The application of Enoch D'Bau for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Enoch D'Bau has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Enoch Day. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 5th day of August at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540761

In the Matter of the Application of Julie Morrison For change of Name. The application of Julie Morrison for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Julie Morrison has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Julie Morrandez. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 5th day of August at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

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JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 02672490-00

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JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 02673560-00

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JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 3, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 02669020-00

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BAY AREA REPORTER



He is lion, hear him roar

Lion the MGM lion presents 'Bent,' 'The Sum of Us,' more gay films out on DVD.

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SFO's Faustian feat

Berlioz's dramatic 'La Damnation de Faust.'

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Short but not slight

Highlights from boys', girls', mixed shorts shows.

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**BAYA REAR REPORTER**

Vol. 33 • No. 25 • 19 June 2003

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The fugitive and the fabulous

Highlights from 27th SF Int'l Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, week 2



Etienne (Jimmy Tavares) plays with his new video-camera in *My Life on Ice*.

by David Lamble

The beat goes on. Following, eight recommended features from the second week of offerings from the 27th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, continuing through June 29.

Gasoline Monica Stambrini's *Gasoline* opens with two gals around 20 kissing inside a diner. Stella (Maya Sansa) is dark and obviously in trouble. Her lover Lenni (Regina Orioli) is a well-built blonde, but behind her granny glasses lies a perpetual deer-caught-in-the-headlights glazed stare. A well-dressed older woman peers in at the girls through the Venetian blinds.

Later, Lenni's mother (Mariella Valentini) ignites her cigarette with a lighter resembling a pistol, shooting her daughter a dirty look. "Do those lesbian eyeglasses let you see the shit you've landed in?" Stella soon dispatches Mama with a blow to the head, daughter Lenni gazing down to the now-lovely corpse, saying, "What legs, she's always had beautiful legs." Lenni wipes her mother's blood up like a child's finger-paints.

Resembling an Italian Lara Flynn Boyle and Patricia Arquette, Stella and Lenni spend the balance of *Gasoline* looking for a place to ditch the body. All the while, Lenni keeps hearing a *Six Feet Under*-like dead-Mama mantra: "Cowardly, lesbian, gold-digging mother-killers." A carload of yuppie creeps with a videocamera terrorizes our heroines through a nighttime Italian

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Documentaries at 27th SF Int'l Lesbian & Gay Film Fest, week 2

In the realm of the senses

by Gary Morris

The second half of the world's largest queer film festival is as rich in the realm of documentaries as the first. Subjects range from tranny transitions, church activism, ACT UP, and Audre Lorde to Tribe 8, home hip-hop culture, and an amazing, unclassifiable bit of queer Americana called *Put the Camera on Me*.

The dreaded "reality TV" trend has an upside that has nothing to do with hetero dating rituals and worm-eating contests. Showtime (like HBO and Sundance) has been very active lately in funding edgy docs, including some excellent queer material. Two examples of the latter are on view at the fest under the umbrella title of *The Opposite Sex*, with *Jamie's Story*, a portrait of a MTF transition, and *Rene's Story* (both Herbst, 6/22) about an FTM. These films, both directed by Josh Aronson, dig deep to help viewers understand the quite specific dilemma of being born with a radical rift between the mind, which sees itself as one sex, and the body, which displays as the opposite. Rene and

Jamie show extraordinary tenacity in dealing with hateful relatives, uncomprehending peers, cruel employers, and intolerant churches that simply view them as lesbian/homosexual, though it also shows the acceptance and love that more enlightened souls offer them. The film avoids special pleading by making it clear that the victimization of Rene and Jamie creates other victims in the form of their mates, who are shattered when the truth comes out about who their partners really are.

More of the terrors of straight society are represented in Jamie A. Lee and Dawn Mikkelsen's *THIS Obedience* (Herbst, 6/21), which tracks attempts by some enlightened parishioners and pastors to overcome the ECLA's (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) policy against the ordination of otherwise qualified gays and lesbians who refuse to take a vow of celibacy. What is this endless hetero obsession with the fucking methods of homos? As so often in these cases, the queers come off as logical and



A scene from Tracy Flannigan's *Rise Above: The Tribe 8 Documentary*

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Photo by David Wilson

We get around, gaily
Glamorous, gay-glorious June

by Roberto Friedman

Pride month in June, which we like to call Prune for short, is that time of the year when your gay Uncle Out There burns the candle at both ends (ouch!) trying to keep up with burgeoning queer culture.

Right in front of us in the VIP line at the Absolut/Out magazine party at Mecca last week: immortalized-on-celluloid Hollywood wit **Bruce Vilanch** — who was witty even from behind!

Then, a most charming cocktail-party host offered us a paddle to use in the silent auction of celebrity toss-offs benefiting the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Or, he said, if we didn't want to bid in the auction, he would put the paddle to good use by giving us a righteous spanking, obviously not knowing that was an *erotic code-word* for us, but handling it beautifully nonetheless.

Last Thursday night's opening of the 27th round of the Frame-line Fest at the Castro, **Charles Busch's Die Momme Diel**, was campy and festive enough to cheer the entire queer crowd. As erstwhile showgirl Angela Arden, Busch seemed to be channeling not only **Joan Crawford**, **Bette Davis**, and **Barbara Stanwyck**, but damned if she didn't lapse into a fine **Dame Edna**, too.

After the screening and Q&A, we were happy to pack onto the Muni underground with our fellow Guessians and Lays to zip off to the Fairy, we mean *Ferry Building* for the opening's glamorous afterparty. If only more of us gays would realize that patronizing (and funding) public transit is the only way out of our city's traffic nightmare.

The reborn Ferry Bldg. makes for a fabulous party space with (at

presstime, on Tuesday) a working clock in its campanile and an eternally killer view of the Bay Bridge, which is maybe not as old-school glam-glam as the Golden Gate Bridge, but makes for a pretty sturdy icon in its own right.

Under the influence of a few too many vanilla Absoluts, OT was about to demand from lovely young ingenue **Stark Sands**, who plays hot-to-trot son Lance in *DMD!*, what it was like to make out with **Jason Priestley**, when a handler suddenly whisked him away. We think they see us coming by now.

Two night later, as the credits rolled after the fest's hit Israeli film *Yossi & Jagger* at the Castro, protesters took the stage and unfurled banners that read, "17,000 Palestinian and Lebanese civilians killed by Israeli forces in Lebanon," and, somewhat oddly, "No animals were harmed by the making of this film," which led initial reports from our correspondents to imply that the demonstrators were PETA activists. They weren't.

The film, which will get a commercial release later this year, is about the forbidden love between two Israeli military officers. San Francisco-based Israeli Consul General **Yossi Amrani** took the stage and described the film as "not about politics, it is about love," to which the audience responded with applause.

Two more films in the Frame-line fest last week addressed LGBT life in the troubled Mideast re-



A scene from Path to Love

the queer quotient right up on the lavender tube.

First, there's *Hope Along the Wind*. The Independent Television Service and KQED present **Eric Slade's** documentary on the life of **Harry Hay**, a founding fa-



Harry Hay doc airs on PBS.

ther of the gay rights movement, the Mattachine Society, and the Radical Faeries. Airs on Ch. 9 tonight, June 19, at 10 p.m.

Then, this is a good month to catch *In the Life*. The gay and lesbian newsmagazine presents *The Body Politic* as its Pride edition, hosted by actor **Denis O'Hare**, in-



John Marcus

cluding: profiles of South African gay rights activists **Beverly Dotsie** and the late **Simon Nkoli**; **Harvey Fierstein** on the past year in the LGBT movement; and actress **Patricia Clarkson** going behind the scenes at Broadway play *Take Me Out*. Airs on KQED-SF, Ch. 9, Mon., June 23, at 11 p.m.

Finally, *Georgie Girl* seems one to stay up for. Born **George Beyer**, one-time-prostitute-turned-politician **Georgina Beyer** was elected to New Zealand's Parliament in 1999, becoming the world's first transsexual to hold national office. **Annie Goldson** and **Peter Wells'** documentary profiles this former sex worker of Maori descent. Amazingly, she was voted into office by a mostly white conservative, rural constituency. The national broadcast premiere on PBS' *P.O.V.* airs locally on KQED, Ch. 9, Tues., page 55 ►



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OPERA

Berlioz among the masochists

SF Opera's Faustian bargain at the War Memorial

by Stephanie von Buchau

My initial temptation, after viewing *La Damnation de Faust* a week ago Tuesday at the War Memorial Opera House, was to ignore the production, about which everyone had been huffing for weeks, including San Francisco Opera itself, which sent patrons a condescending note warning them that the staging was meant for mature audiences, and that if sexuality and violence offended them, they could exchange their tickets for a more "traditional production." They could also stop watching Fox News.

Self-appointed SFO apologists — and I do not believe the rumor that they are paid apologists, though some may be angling for jobs in the company — kept saying that a graphic S&M orgy scene was necessary to expose the corruption of society, blah blah blah. In the program note, director Thomas Langhoff spoke about how he interpreted the drug scene on the banks of the Elbe. I did not read the program note until afterward (perhaps SFO would consider sending these enlightening messages to critics in advance of the premiere?), but I knew before I sat down that there is no orgy scene or drug use in Berlioz's "dramatic legend."

In other words, yawn, another production in which "liberties" are taken. In Berlioz's score, Faust falls asleep on the banks of the Elbe River, rose petals rain down on him, and he has a vision of Marguerite while a chorus of



Kristinn Sigmundsson (Mephistopheles) and David Kuebler (Faust) in *La Damnation de Faust*.

Cenerentola, the title role was virtually inaudible. Berlioz is not nice to tenors — I can't bear to contemplate the promised *Les Troyens*. The role of Faust contains a couple of killer high notes that David Kuebler executes as well as anybody alive. And that must be the reason he was hired, for he could barely sing the rest of the part, and his "acting," which consisted mostly of shabby shuffling, was non-existent. Well, who would you want to hear? I was asked. Roberto Alagna, though I doubt if he'd have stood still for those extensive rehearsals designed to make him look stupid.

Director Thomas Langhoff confidently imagines a drug-fueled S&M leather rave in the piece.

gnomes and elves serenade him. There is absolutely nothing in the music or the text that conjures up the drug-fueled S&M leather "rave" that Langhoff so confidently imagined for his decade-old production from the "Munich State Opera" [sic]. Nor does the glittering "Rakoczy March" (the score's most popular piece) suggest tattooed thugs waving assault rifles at the audience. That's what "deconstruction" means, a willful reinterpretation of existing words and music because Berlioz is dead and can't defend himself.

Much of the production, despite its total lack of relevance to the actual music, is very entertaining. It is certainly not a boring two hours, though I'd advise going easy on the wine at dinner. It just isn't about what Goethe or Berlioz thought *Faust* was about (and even they didn't agree). Would Berlioz have approved? I don't know any more than Langhoff does (though he claims to), but I do know that the composer was even more proper and circumspect on stage than Verdi, and therefore any sexual relevance needs to be implied as it is in the music, rather than graphically illustrated.

Killer highs

More pertinent is the fact that Berlioz was a great original *vocal* composer, and I put that word in italics because more and more at the San Francisco Opera, while the musical values are high, the vocal ones are not. Here, as in *La*

they are well directed, the chorus often contains the best actors on stage, and this production confirms that, especially the totally disarming (and unexpectedly hilarious) sequence where they "join" the orgy that doesn't exist in the first place. If anything was going to make me approve of altering the composer's intentions (even the supertitles were suspiciously inaccurate), it was the sight of the chorus, so often treated badly by stage directors, having such a rollicking good time. ▼



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Who's afraid of 'La Gioconda'?

Not Plácido Domingo or Violeta Urmana

by Tim Pfaff

San Franciscans could be forgiven for giving *La Gioconda* wide berth. The last time Amilcare Pionielli's sole contribution to the active repertoire made it to the War Memorial stage, it was just that: a war memorial. One of the tawdriest moments of the distinguished Adler regime, it featured Luciano Pavarotti and Renata Scotti in this vocal slugfest, and the stars' rivalry was pathetically evident. Adding insult to injury, a venomous documentary accompanying the telecast, sparing no one, turned out to be the best thing about it.

For people still chasing the aftertaste of that experience, the palette cleanser is EMI's terrific new recording. I thought I never wanted to hear it again, and was vexed to have a recording put in my path that piqued my interest for reasons beyond the work. First, there was the desire to check in on Plácido Domingo — to hear what the 66-year-old was up to in his first recording of a role he seemed to have retired long ago.

Then there was more to learn about Violeta Urmana, a singer I've long wanted to admire more than her CDs have permitted, and who, with the title role, is making the fateful switch from mezzo-soprano to soprano territory, a move that has been the death knell of many an otherwise savvy singer.

Boy, was I surprised. Through several listenings, I've hung on every note (well, almost) of a recording that holds its own nicely next to Callas' legendary studio version (still indispensable). More on the stars in a minute, but the revelation is that, with the right conductor and overall ensemble — which this *La Gioconda* has in spades — the opera lives and breathes and yields the power over audiences it has rarely lost since its 1875 premiere. If, for the likes of Joseph Kerman, Puccini's



Domingo: a Wonder of the World?

Tosca remains a "shabby little shocker," what hope is there today for *La Gioconda*, with a vastly more improbable plot?

Still, after a generation of wan, reality-TV operas, few of which have worked or lasted, the so-called "verismo" operas by second-tier Italian masters are sounding pretty smart.

Even with Placi, the set wouldn't be worth having without the shrewd, loving, respectful leadership of conductor Marcello Viotti. He has the (trickier than you'd think) idiom down cold, and he shepherds his cast, the Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Bavarian Radio Chorus, and Munich Children's Chorus through the score with a sure command of its overall sweep but a fastidious attention to telling details.

What stands out from the first notes is the atmosphere, a quality often absent from today's rushed-to-market opera sets. It's no more authentically Venetian than the opera itself, so don't wait to hear the canals lapping against ancient stones. But if Viotti cannot make the overwrought story overall any more believable than anyone else can, you're "there" with every scene the same way you are in a good *Trovatore*.

If Domingo doesn't earn Wonder of the World status before his singing career ends, it won't be for

lack of merit. There's not a hint of wear, fatigue, or age in the voice, which still rings out with arresting force. His entrance, crying "Assassin!" has the power of Otello's "Esultate!" without seeming either outsized or scene-stealing. Enzo's one big aria, "Cielo e marl," is as well-crafted a rendition as I've heard, on or off record, and more sheerly beautiful than any other in my experience. But, as usual, it's in his ensemble work that Domingo sings at his finest, fine-grained interactions the unbroken rule.

Urmana's previous recordings, as a mezzo, have featured artistry and musicality of the highest caliber. Yet, of zoots there has been little. Maybe getting to the dramatic soprano repertoire by way of Wagner's Kundry was exactly the right approach, but there's no denying now that she has arrived in her "true" voice. While I personally hope she sings more Kundreds than Giocondas, her "Joyous One" (*Gioconda*) offers singing one can sink into unapologetically.

Like Callas before her (if without Callas' one-of-a-kind aura), Urmana proves a scrupulous musician incapable of squandering a single note. The firm, gleaming tone is beguiling on its own terms, but Urmana never settles for beauty of sound when acuity of utterance is an alternative (and when isn't it?)

To praise her diction would only be to pass over the utter mastery with which she fuses note to word. Her big number, "Suicidio," is devoid of cheap histrionics, sumptuously rendered throughout, and the least memorable thing about this hypnotizing performance.

The unaccountable shipwreck of Roberto Scanduzzi's voice (as Alvise) is the only blemish on otherwise great singing throughout the rest of the cast. Even in a world bursting at the seams with great mezzos, there's always room for a singer like Luciana D'Intino. How considerate of Urmana to have vacated a space for her. ▼

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DANCE



In his new work, Folk, Joe Goode asks the musical question, 'Does a simple life exist?' (Liz Burritt, center)

Mystery guests

Joe Goode Performance Group explores 'Folk' at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

by Michael Wade Simpson

In a world filled with lies and ruled by committee, we look to artists for singular voices and truth. Joe Goode and his Performance Group offer just such necessary relief. In work after work, he continually finds new ways of poking fun at our world, and, at the same time, finding meaning, showing us hope. His point of departure as a dance/theatre creator may be the views of a gay urban male, but he has the wisdom and genius to encompass a much broader context. In his new work, *Folk*, he asks the question, "Does a simple life exist?"

"Our lives are so complex, filled with emotional and financial compromises we make for work. Many of us long for simplicity," he said in a recent interview. "We idealize a life on a farm, going to the feed store... but when you look at that life closely, you realize there's nothing simple about it."

Goode has some personal experience, having taught part-time in Montana for several years, meeting "friends in log cabins." Getting to know these "rural people" disabused him of any notion of simplicity, however. "These are complicated people." Complicated, and, for Goode, fascinating.

"They're not hothouse orchids, urban people. When the nearest neighbor is two or three miles away, you develop your own language and way of seeing the world."

Goode has done the same thing in the theatre. An evening with the Performance Group is a unique and satisfying blend of movement, storytelling, humor and music, with the dancers becoming characters who are at once recognizable, yet more poetic, always stranger than the people we encounter in real life.

What started out as a career as a modern dance choreographer has morphed out of necessity into the making of dances with talking and singing and characters, scenery, special effects, humor, a dream-like narrative. No one else in the dance world is doing what Goode is doing. He's made San Francisco a kind of way-out, way-off-Broadway. Mostly, he tours for months at a time in order to stay solvent. In that way, he stays in touch with America.

Different strokes

"We get a lot of love. When we go to other places, people love what we do — they feel personally spoken to," he said. "Touring informs us." In the Midwest, audiences respond to the humor and receive the work as comedy. In urban areas, there is an intellectual and political context, and in the South, he said, there is fear.

"They come with tension, like, 'What kind of arcane mystery are we about to observe?'" Goode has devised a method to put audiences at ease. "We do little pre-show things," he said, "we make up songs about wherever we are. In St. Cloud, Minnesota, we might sing about how cold it is, what the pancakes taste like, etc. People relax, they begin to see that we're observing life in a similar way that they do. We can go on this journey with them."

Goode wraps his folksy songs and funny characters into narratives that lead to the big questions, partially in response to his own need to understand. In *Folk*, his own desire to simplify and discover "truth to who I am and what I want my life to be" sent him on a journey to a fictional small town in the high desert.

"I play a burned-out Art Fag who is viewing the desert as the place to go and have his little breakdown," he said. The main setting is the Wagon Wheel, a diner, and the voice of Goode's friend Jane from the woods of Montana becomes that of one of the waitresses, "taciturn and strange at first, an unsocialized voice, no point to color the truth, nothing to be gained, straightforward."

And then there is Snake Boy. "Snake Boy sleeps outside. He has a strange, individualized way of seeing the world, he makes facial impressions of dead people on cloth, saves them. The burned-out fag artist is fascinated. There is something strangely sexual about what he's doing."

At a recent rehearsal, Goode directed Snake Boy to climb up on the gurney where his dead subject lay. "I don't know what you're doing, you're having a party up there." Later, the waitresses practiced their line, "You can't get the fries with tuna salad." A dance section showed a strong group of dancers clearly loving the athletic, quirky movement, as much as they love the work that it offers

them. "They get to sing, write, act and contribute," said Goode. "They would never get to do that in another dance company."

"Get your scripts out," he said. "Go to 'Hash Browns' I want to make some edits."

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Considering the case of the 'bug-chasers'

Louise Hogarth's documentary 'The Gift'

by Matthew S. Bajko

In a demarcation line between warring factions, AIDS becomes the separation point between the haves and have-nots in Louise Hogarth's documentary *The Gift*, screening Saturday at the Castro Theatre as part of the SFILGFF.

Hogarth, a lesbian filmmaker from Los Angeles, cuts through the political and religious factions in the war on AIDS to delve into the personal and emotional struggles raging inside two sets of men profiled in the film.

The first group consists of "bug-chasers," those men who are looking for sexual partners who will infect them with "the gift" of HIV. Seeking out "gift-givers" on the Internet and at conversion par-

ties where barebacking is demanded and condom use is scorned, bug-chasers view HIV as their armor against a multitude of troubles, from depression and self-hatred to loneliness and isolation.

Profiled in the film are Doug Hitzel, who at 19 finds himself alone in San Francisco searching for a sense of belonging in the gay community, and 27-year-old Kenboy, who has moved from Illinois into a sex-party house in Los Angeles where barebacking is the norm. Both want to become infected with HIV as a way to finally belong, to feel part of a group.

"I was desperate to have gay male friends, for years I tried," Doug tells the camera.

"Hopefully, I will get the gift so I don't have to worry about HIV," beams Kenboy. "I am not afraid of AIDS."

Juxtaposed against the bug-chasers is a group of four HIV-positive men in their 40s. All have lived with HIV for years, all have had heart attacks, and all are single.

"Calling it 'the gift' just blows me away," one man says to the group.

"I am tired of worrying about when my heart is going to stop," says another.

While the positive men are seen in a group, bonding over their shared experience living with HIV, at no time during the 62-minute film is Doug ever seen with another person. Whether alone in his apartment, or alone walking through the streets of the Castro, he appears trapped in a world devoid of human contact.

This celluloid isolation helps to underscore his intense longing to connect, and explains his belief that becoming infected with HIV will serve as an entry to a world of friendship and belonging.

Split ends

Visually, this is a jarring reminder of the central premise of the film: that for 20 years, AIDS has slowly split the gay community in half, creating a barrier between negatives and positives. Kenboy also appears trapped in a friendless world in the film, whether playing pool by himself or talking to the camera alone. The one time he is seen interacting with other men is when he goes to inspect preparations for his 28th birthday party, held in a basement-turned-sex-dungeon. The home's owners show Kenboy the special sling they have set up for him.

Sitting in the sling, Kenboy explains how he wants to have sex with as many men as possible in one evening. No condoms allowed.

"I am not worried about STDs. I want to take as many loads as possible," says Kenboy, who at this point knows he is HIV-positive.

The film is a frank look at why some gay men have turned their backs on the safe-sex messages HIV-prevention groups have been marketing for years.

As the men in the film reveal their life-stories, it becomes clear that the documentary is Hogarth's gift to gay men, a conversation starter on a topic many men have stopped discussing.

"I did see it as my gift to the community. And thank God it is understood," says Hogarth, who



A scene from *The Gift*: isolated.

has presented the film at gay film festivals the world over. "I was told a lot of times not to make this documentary, that I would get a lot of trouble for it. But I wanted to do it."

The film is not subtle in its attacks on HIV prevention. It raises many questions about the approach AIDS agencies have taken over the years in driving home the message sex without a condom kills.

Yet Hogarth says her film should not be seen as a condemnation of the HIV-prevention community. She says it is more a prodding to get AIDS agencies, and the gay community, talking openly and honestly about what approaches should be taken to stop the spread of AIDS.

"I think that it's no one's fault. We all have tried to do the best we could," she says. But the problem, in Hogarth's view, is that "we thought it would be a short-term epidemic, and it's turned into a long-term epidemic. Prevention policies in some ways have backfired."

"No one knew that would happen. We need to evolve," she says. "The film is a tool to help prevention evolve."

One problem explored in the film is how negative men are relegated into silence, fearful of revealing the fact they have remained free of the virus. Instead of being proud of their negative status, these men hide in their own closet.

The impact of AIDS works like a magnet, with men feeling pulled more and more into its reach.

"There is this subtle pressure," Hogarth says. "The HIV-negative person feels pressured by positive people to convert."

Yet in the end, having HIV does not translate into acceptance, as Doug, now 21 and in college, realizes.

"I find myself holding back in making friends. My being gay and having HIV is hard for them to understand," he says. "I don't want to risk them not understanding."

To Doug, HIV may appear to be wrapped in a pretty bow, but this gift is not present. ▼

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landscape that would be right at home in the adrenaline-fueled road movies of John Dahl, *Red Rock West* and *Joy Ride*.



Two gals around 20 in *Gasoline*

Gasoline's noirish hijinks are enlivened by witty one-liners from the hard-bitten Stella. "The great thing about not having a mother is that you can imagine anybody you like — say, Nina Hagen." (Castro, 6/20)

Suddenly A film that resonates with the themes of Argentina's financial crisis, shot during and in spite of its upheavals, *Diego Lerman's Suddenly* has an ordinary-looking shopgirl, Marcia (Tatiana Saphir), abducted by a couple of knife-wielding terrorists, Mao (Carla Crespo) and Lenin (Veronica Hassan). She's taken on a taxi ride to oblivion (the seashore, which Marcia says she's never seen) before winding up at boarding house run by Lenin's eccentric, elderly Aunt Blanca (Beatriz Thibaudin), which becomes the

center of an evolving dysfunctional but endearing family.

Like her namesake, Mao is a bit of a sex pig, first seducing and then abandoning Marcia, who has been dumped by her boyfriend. Lenin uses her return "from the Finland Station" to renew a passionate friendship with her aunt, who becomes a substitute for the mother she's rejected. Director Lerman (born the day after the 1976 military coup) employs the backdrop of Argentina's ongoing love affair with Fascism to paint an edgy portrait of survival, blended like a great cup of coffee with a darkly funny version of traditional Latin American fatalism. (Castro, 6/25)

Cock and Bull Story No, this isn't the great gay boxing story that you've all been panting to see, but it will do 'til one comes along. First-time director Billy Hayes (of *Midnight Express* fame) uses an experimental play as the springboard for his story of an upcoming boxer, Travis (Bret Roberts), whose pugilism is upstaged by a dangerous friendship with a Southside Chicago hoodlum named Jacko (Austin Green, late of *Beverly Hills 90210*). Travis' ringstyle contains a trick that is physically impossible but thoroughly entertaining in its pornographic specificity. The core of the piece is an examination of the nature of violence, and, while no *Raging Bull*, *Cock and Bull Story* gives a credible rendering of two friends who dare not know why they are friends.

The film's message becomes clear in a long third-act scene that appears to be lifted intact from the play. The trick is guessing which character is the equivalent of *Raging Bull's* Jake or Joey. The film's

main drawback is the cutesy depiction of supporting characters. (Castro, 6/20 & 23)



Marcel and Leo in *Close to Leo*

Close to Leo A French version of *You Can Count on Me*, only in this case, the siblings are brothers: Leo, passionate, reckless, 21 and HIV-positive; Marcel, bold, loving, 11 and heartbroken that his beloved older brother may be dying while everyone in the family thinks he's too young to know. Unlike its bastard cousin, the American afterschool special, this made-for-French-television drama for young people has believable characters who sweat, curse, act up, hug, kiss, and refuse to speak — in short, behaving in the delightfully idiosyncratic way of real people faced with a pitiless universe and an unforgiving disease.

The special chemistry between Leo (the mercurial Pierre Mignard) and Marcel (young Yaniss Lespert steals every scene he's in) upstages an excellent supporting cast. One wishes that director/writer Christophe Honore could have devoted more of the film's all-too-brief running time

to the lifetime of secrets and love that these brothers have to share. (Castro, 6/23 & 29)

My Life on Ice A much happier tale of adolescent *Sturm und Drang*, figure-skater-turned-actor Jimmy Tavares plays Etienne, a vivacious high-school student for whom the gift of a videocamera becomes the means for exploring his objects of desire. Having the whole film told through the lens of Etienne's camera could have become precious and annoying, but filmmakers Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau (creators of *Adventures of Love* and *Jeanne and the Perfect Guy*) use the device as the basis for a kind of fictional twist on *Capturing the Friedmans*. Etienne annoys his patient mother, charms Grandmama, stalks his male geography teacher, and flirts with his best friend, Lido, who is having his own love-on-the-run misadventures with a series of young vixens. Etienne's video diary becomes a method for posing all the questions youth must ask and only life can answer. (Castro, 6/21)

Daughters of the Sun This Iranian feature, dubbed by some critics that country's *Boys Don't Cry*, about a peasant girl passing as a boy, seems at first to exist in an erotically deprived world. In the opening scene, we watch Aman (Altinay Ghelich Taghani) getting a buzzcut so she can work as the top boy in a rug factory run by a cruel owner, to squeeze out a small stipend for her impoverished, rural family. In the first reel, the only dialogue heard is the owner's injunction to "Sit down and weave." For several scenes, no one speaks; the women even avoid eye contact.

With her hair shorn, Aman radiates the unmistakable aura of the slightly randy male adolescent, a scent that attracts the romantic attention of a female co-worker. "I had a dream about you," she whispers, with the slightly intoxicated air of one who dares living only through her dreams.

Western-trained filmmaker Maryam Shahriari makes it clear that women are not the only victims of a society driven by a paranoid desire to control all contact between the genders. If anything, Aman's slavedriver boss treats him more harshly than the women, inflicting terrible beatings at the least mishap.

A Romanian poet once remarked that you could tell a Third World country by the inefficiency of the postal service. In Aman's case, a hopelessly incompetent mailman causes her to miss the letter informing her about the death of her mother. In Shahriari's bleak universe, talk is cheap and only for men. Women wait and suffer. (Castro, 6/20 & 23)

Whatever Happened to Susan Jane? This Marc Huestis-directed, caffeine-fueled parody of high school angst is a tribute to all the crazy kids who ran away from small-minded America to join the circus. For the kids who hung out at the Cafe Flore (*circa* 1982), this was high school redux as a kind of Academy of the Drag Arts. Ann Block is footloose suburban-mom Marcie Clark, who leaves hubby Dick to learn the whereabouts of Susan Jane Smith (the sublimely jaded Francesca Rosa), the girl who never belonged.

Susan Jane, the bored artist wannabe, is an icon of the time (a darker version informs Susan Seidelman's punk Hell in *Smithereens*). Huestis nimbly blends a found-footage backstory with an acid-trip palette of Frisco kookiness. With the help of some creative hands behind the cameras (including Rob Epstein and Fawn



Whatever Happened to Susan Jane?

Yacker) and an ensemble cast featuring the *Chronicle's* Edward Guthmann as a vainglorious TV reporter and Silvana Nova as a gay supervisor candidate with a libidinous platform, this is the ultimate cult movie. It's a cult whose surviving members you can party with at the Castro (6/21).



Hollywood message film, circa '93

Philadelphia 1993: A carload of friends and I catch this Jonathan Demme film, which attempts to put a human face on AIDS, at a South Bay shopping-mall theatre with one of those curvy screens that distorts images if you sit too close. Viewed from the front row, Jason Robards loomed over us as large as the Chrysler building. His teeth seemed enormous — Robards was about to eat Tom Hanks — he was Monstro the whale, and this was a live-action remake of *Pinochio*. While looking for parking, I had missed the Philly cheese-steak opening scenes with Springsteen crooning over every City of Brotherly Love visual cliché except Rocky punching out sides of beef in training for his big fight. I was depressed. A friend with a cameo in the film had already died by the time of its release. The myth of the longterm survivor was about to be replaced by the magic bullet of drug cocktails. A poet friend would miss out on the trials and kill himself. A lot of us were angry, and *Philadelphia* was a good target.

Ten years later, I can see the film Demme and openly gay writer Ron Nyswaner actually made. It's *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* with a touch of *Anatomy of a Murder*, the great Hollywood message formula tied to a courtroom drama. Denzel Washington loses his temper, shows his shadow side just like Jimmy Stewart. Tom Hanks is radiant as a dying man reaching out to his uptight lawyer, dancing to an aria that allows the film to soar briefly above the formula.

In 1985, the late Artie Bresson made the first AIDS movie, *Buddies*, shooting on a dime-store budget. Artie, Capra to the core, will be present in spirit for this 10th anniversary screening of *Philadelphia*, co-presented by the National AIDS Memorial Grove. (Castro, 6/24) ▼

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Sensuality of small acts

Shorts in the 27th SF International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, week two

by David Lamble

Ten shorts from five different programs in the second week of the Frameline Fest got our attention, and deserve yours.

Boys Got Spunk *Golden Gums* Narcissism, a secret ingredient in many gay films, takes center stage as Matt Wolf delivers a deadpan spoof on the psychological damage resulting from a media-obsessed South Bay childhood. "When I was a kid, I always got myself on TV." In Freudian terms, Matt deconstructs the act of founding the first straight/gay alliance while a high school sophomore. "When I was a little older, I got really gay." Matt has boyfriend troubles after the gift of a gold-plated dentist mockup of his teeth. "Matt, I can't accept this, it's too much too soon."

Salvation Army Canadian Scott Treleaven's dark satire is based on the existence of a *Fight Club*-like queer underground, where a blood oath taken by three friends quickly turns into a vast network of sexual terrorists supporting themselves by petty crime. Warning: may appear as a documentary on the Fox News Channel. (BGS: Herbst, 6/25)

Chick Flicks *Esme Seeking* Catching a wedding bouquet leads a bridesmaid to seriously reconsider her life's path as director Angela Cheng shows how clothes can unknot a girl.

Berlin Beshert Two Jewish sisters, one straight, one not, resist their mother's campaign to employ a matchmaker on their behalf. "I guess your dates weren't so great?" "Oh, I dunno. Would you rather be with a philo-Semitic or an anti-Semitic?" "Would you rather spend your life with an order fetishist or with a Klezmer fanatic?" Director November Wunderin has fun with the foibles of dating Jewish in a city with a serious shortage of Jews. (CF: Herbst, 6/26)

Worldly Affairs *Paradisco* French director Stephane Ly-Cuong has a one-night-stand between a bold young man and a hunky older guy with few illusions turn into a bittersweet musical in the spirit of *The Dead Boys Club*. Oh, those disco nights.

Red Chewing Gum One of two boy shorts from the Arab world, Akram Zaatari's film explores how the lasting flavor of a piece of gum recalls a past encounter with a boy. (WA: Herbst, 6/22)

Afternoon Delights *Afterschool Delight* "If you wanted to kiss me, all you had to do is ask." Scout and



One-night-stand between hunky older guy, bold young man in *Paradisco*.

Angie are 12 and home alone. In Eve Bregman's retro short, "More Than a Feeling" blares off the 8-track as a girlish game of the undertaker and her dead body leads to the discovery of some very adult play, behind the no-trespassing sign on big brother's bedroom door.

The Fair and the Weak Lauren Cook uses '50s archival footage (those chirpy newsreels showing high-spirited young women leaping over tennis nets and swinging golf clubs in preparation for true love and the office typing pool) to illustrate a young butch's perilous path from playing "Ken" at age 5 to her own *High Noon*, panting after a flirty but elusive straight girl.

Peeling Heidi Bollock animates a teenage girl's sketchpad to mark the precise moment when Beth (Erin Fallon) must leave the nest and run off with her first serious girlfriend, Sarah (Blythe Day). Beth's mom (Robin Scott) has other ideas: Beth should marry Leo (Steve Crawford) and go to college, not art school. The seeming banality of the plot is enlivened by specific choices Bollock makes for her characters: Beth and Mom are redheads, and their turf wars involve the way hair will be worn, who will clean Beth's room, and why a drawing of a girl peeling an orange can threaten Mom and free Beth. A deft exercise in the sensuality of the small acts that lead to momentous change. (AD: Castro, 6/21)

Bhangra by the Bay Kashish — Allurement Meenakshi and Vinay Rai present an unusual courtship between two modern-minded Indian women who meet by chance, hitchhiking in Delhi. Sharing a love of sensual art — flower arrangements, hand-painted T-shirts painted while worn — the women's friendship starts to slide into a dangerously charged and slippery zone for persons raised in a traditional society with very lim-

ited horizons for women. They stroll through an outdoor market, bond by passion, and speak to each other in English, as if it were a coded language meant to express their feelings only. "What kind of a person are you looking for?" "Someone who has a good sense of humor, someone who has a different perspective on life, someone like you."

Sponsored by an Indian hotline designed to promote the needs of emerging women, the film depicts the journey of two souls as they prepare for an exhilarating if confusing union. (BBTB: Herbst, 6/23) ▼

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"AN ARTFUL, UNSETTLING GHOST STORY."

Before the opening credits even concluded, "The Eye" had already reduced me to a state of trembling, goose-bumped dread. Rarely has the basic nature of visual perception seemed so frightening. But what is most impressive about "The Eye," is its delicacy.

A.O. SCOTT

Los Angeles Times

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MANOHLA DARGIS

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Scenes from real life, continued

More documentaries from SFILGFF

by Gary Morris

Excellent documentaries in the second week of the Frameline Fest include films on "gift giving" and "bug chasing," and even the hitherto unsuspected — at least by this reviewer — existence of a gay Shangri-La on the Mexican border with Guatemala.

The grimfest of Louise Hogarth's *The Gift* (6/21, 2:30 p.m., Castro) might inspire Gore Vidal to cite the depravities of Ancient Rome. The "gift," as any hip queen knows, is HIV. A "bug chaser" can get "charged" at one of the meth-drenched conversion parties, or perhaps the more common "don't-ask-don't-tell" play parties described in lurid detail in this film. "The virus has become eroticized," laments psychotherapist Walt Odets. A happy-chappy named Bill gives brainless boytoy "Kenboy" a birthday present by corralling dozens of guys to fuck him raw. "His goal was to take 40 or 50 loads," says smilin' Bill. "Happy birthday, Kenboy!" Viewers will have to draw their own conclusions on this controversy, but the film, basically a series of sometimes extremely emotional interviews with people on various sides of the issue, is important and intriguing.



The women in *Jucitan Queer Paradise* are as empowered as the men.

Fortunately, you don't necessarily have to die to be happy, as Patricio Henriquez's *Jucitan Queer Paradise* (6/20, 6 p.m., Herbst Theatre) shows. You can just go to Mexico. Surely Gore Vidal could plan a trip there, to see for himself the long-awaited, much-vaunted, treasurable-beyond-belief image of a homosexual heaven in a country reputed to be among the most macho. Though there's allegedly only one gay couple there, everybody seems interested and available. It's a queen's dream (surpassing even Turkey, reputed to be "a country full of tops"). In a comical chat between self-identi-

fied gay and straight men, one of the former tells one of the latter: "You're not a whole man unless you've screwed a fag." Surely words to live by. A follow-up scene shows the straight man lying in bed awaiting the ministrations of the obliging "fag." The film also shows something that queens know but straights don't — that everyone benefits when queens roam free. The women of Jucitan are as powerful as the men, more so in a sense, because they appear to control entirely the local economy. Imagine a world ruled jointly by women and queers! Well, we can dream. ▼

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FILM

Docs at SFILGFF

◀ Arts cover

intelligent, while the hand-wringing heteros (and perhaps some closet cases) defend the old ways with increasing feebleness. At the center of the drama is Anita C. Hill, a charismatic pioneer whose refusal to step aside gives heft to this drama.

Another queer pioneer is the subject of Jennifer Abbott's *The Edge of Each Other's Battles: The Vision of Audre Lorde* (Herbst, 6/26). This brisk (60 minutes) valentine covers considerable ground on a complex subject. Lorde was acclaimed as poet, essayist, theorist, activist, feminist, scholar, internationalist. Archival footage of Lorde lecturing and performing shows why she was so influential on several generations of feminists. Lorde is also feted in Sonali Fernando's worthy *Body of a Poet* (playing with *Edge of Each Other's Battles*).



THIS Obedience: overcoming Evangelical policy against ordination of gays.

heart of Tracy Flannigan's exhilarating *Rise Above: The Tribe 8 Documentary* (Castro, 6/22). The charismatic, much-maligned punky dyke group is shown in concert, extensive interviews, and footage from the 1994 Womyn's Festival in Michigan, where their onstage sex and violence, with libidinous displays of dildos and mock-macho preening, caused an uproar among prim "women's music" types. "I was scared, really scared," says one shaken concertgoer, though that doesn't stop straight boys from eagerly answering lead singer Lynn Breedlove's demand to come up onstage and "suck my cock!" Tribe 8's exhilarating attack on cock rock remains as powerful as it is controversial, but these gals are also highly intelligent and downright endearing offstage. And surely few would argue with Lynn's sentiments that "it's important for people to be penetrated," and, "There's nothing wrong with penises as long as they're detachable."

If there's one must-see doc in this year's fest, it's Darren Stein and Adam Shell's *Put the Camera on Me*. This captivating film looks at the weirdly sophisticated movies made by lil' Darren Stein in the 1980s starting at age 7, with plenty of excerpts and interviews with his parents, siblings, and stars 20 years later. Darren's subjects? Sexuality, cruelty, cross-dressing, games, friendships, rivalries, and childhood, according to the doc's tagline. His repertory company? The local kids, straight and (future) gay. This queer mini-auteur's work fearlessly breaks taboos, and Stein (who appears in most of the productions) is brazen in his efforts to reimagine the gore and glam of Hollywood movies as vehicles for his own fevered imaginings. In one of the dramas, a little boy in drag declares, "I'm gay as a whistle!" under Stein's direction. Later, one of his stars, now a hunky man, says with amusement, "Darren zoomed tight in on my

From *Fight Back, Fight AIDS*

James Wentzy's *Fight Back, Fight AIDS: 15 Years of ACT UP on Video* (Herbst, 6/25), in keeping with the spirit of the organization it depicts, is simply a collection of video footage of ACT UP marches, meetings, and protests, the ultimate in democratic activism. Some viewers may get bored by the lack of commentary, but scenes such as the late Vito Russo eloquently specifying remind us of the vitality of a movement that garnered as much controversy as practical results.

Boppin' at the hop

Speaking of takin' it to the streets, the shorts program *Homo Hop* (Castro, 6/22) offers a veritable lexicon of previously unglimped black and Hispanic New York street homo types. Maria Clara's *Life on Christopher Street* parades all manner of hip-hop queers, distinctively dressed, verbally adept, and answering to such names as "homo thugs," "homo butch queen thugs," and the always enticing "ruthless gangster bitches." There's a vibrant vulgarity to these loose-knit, sexy groups who toy with hypermasculinity, hyperfemininity, and hyper-everything-in-between. They speak with a rough poetry that's irresistible: "I have my cunt ways," says one dykey creature. And one evil queen sums up the pleasure of the pounce: "I see a homo thug, I'm goin' after him, plain and simple!"

Street creds are also at the

Scene from *The Edge of Each Other's Battles: The Vision of Audre Lorde*.

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Music man

by Jim Nawrocki

The Music of Your Life by John Rowell; Simon & Schuster, \$23

R eferences to American popular music, as well as to the Golden Ages of Hollywood and television, permeate *The Music of Your Life*, a collection of short stories by North Carolina native John Rowell. These are stories of coming out, coming to terms, and living life as a gay man in 20th-century America, peopled by affable characters who struggle to fit in. One senses that most of these fictions, which are primarily set in the South and involve characters who have an affinity for music and theater, are at least partly autobiographical. Whether or not that's always the case, these qualities will also make the tales appeal to a large segment of Rowell's gay readership.

The title story introduces us to a 10-year-old boy who is growing up in late-'60s America and is just beginning to realize that he is not

quite like the other boys, or, in his word, "damaged." He lives in a comfortable home with a loving mother and father, Connie and Ray. He is fascinated by television, particularly *The Lawrence Welk Show* and *Batman*. He idolizes Welk's dancers, and he is transfixed by the homoerotic potential of "the caped crusaders." Rowell relies heavily on pop-culture references to paint the mood of the story, and this is appropriate, given the tendency of children to take their cues from television, movies, and pop music. All is well in the boy's world until his father, a former baseball star, attempts to get his less-than-athletic son interested in the game. Rowell captures the growing tension between Ray and his son very well, and he does so not without sympathy for Ray, who clearly loves the son he is so perplexed with. There's an achingly awkward and poignant scene, for example, in which Ray presents the boy with a baseball glove, and both struggle to act their respective roles.

In the story "Who Loves You?"



Rowell uses Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, as well as John Wayne, as bit players in the life of Will Ford, an aspiring actor who manages to appear as an extra in Lucy's television show and in the John Ford film *The Searchers*. Rowell's portrayal of Lucy as a shrewd, bawdy, take-no-prisoners show-business queen is memorable, but the larger story concerns Will Ford and his relationship with his lover, Arthur, and his gay nephew, Toby. The tale moves back and forth in time, from '50s California to '90s Connecticut, where Will hosts Toby and his new boyfriend,

Ethan. Toby and Ethan's visit serves as a catalyst for Will's coming to terms with his past, his loss of his old lover, and his realization that he never quite made it as an actor. Rowell seems to favor alternating timelines in his stories. He also uses the device in "Delegates," another tale in which older lovers come to terms with their past (and in which older gay men confront the younger generation).

Southern comfort

Rowell tries his skills as a humorist in "Saviors," a story about a small-town church choir director, Burton, who is closeted and in love with Kent, an old friend from schooldays who happens to be straight. The comic tension in the story arrives in the form of Jean, who attempts to fix the single, lonely Burton up with her equally lonely niece, Bitsy. All plays out to a somewhat unsurprising but still amusing conclusion. In many

ways, Rowell's fiction is much like that of another gay Southern writer, Jim Grimsley, whose novels also present a menagerie of engaging and sometimes fey Southern characters.

Rowell's stories are diverting, but there are times when he seems to rely too heavily on exposition at the expense of character and story development. In "Who Loves You?", for example, he glosses over Toby's coming out to his uncle Will in just a few sentences rather than developing it into a more important scene. There's a wonderful section in "The Music of Your Life" in which Rowell takes us into the mind and heart of Ray, the confused father, and in so doing he fleshes out and humanizes the character. In some of the other stories, however, there are situations that seem undeveloped or even cliché, such as the tension between the young muscleboy Duffy and the more mature gay men in "Delegates." ▼

Leading the blind

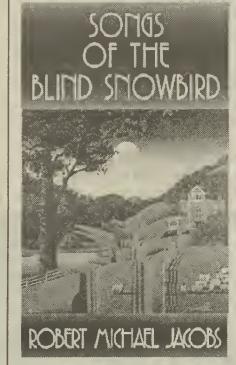
by Robert Julian

Songs of the Blind Snowbird by Robert Michael Jacobs; Jay Street, \$17.95

A successful graphic designer in the 1980s, Robert Michael Jacobs suffered a drastic life change in the '90s with the onset of total blindness (a result of CMV retinitis). As a gay man, living alone with a Yorkshire terrier named K.C., Jacobs had to reinvent himself and deal with the daily indignities that come from being blind in a sighted world. Living half the year in Boston, and half in Key West, Jacobs began writing an autobiographical weekly column for a community newspaper in Florida. Many of these columns form the core of his memoir, *Songs of the Blind Snowbird*.

Jacobs does a good job detailing the series of calamities that assault him in his thirties. He loses a career and financial security; he goes blind and is also diagnosed with cancer; his sense of independence and dignity is shattered; and he loses the love of his life — his "Yorky," K.C. He must grapple with depression while still trying to handle life on a day-to-day basis. Jacobs finds himself at war with his physical self, consumed by remembrances of what was and will never be again. He is most eloquent and compelling when describing the simple tasks of daily living, and most moving when describing his great love for his canine companion.

Nevertheless, Jacobs' writing is somewhat problematic. An unwise reliance on words like "alas" and "thus" gives his prose a stilted,



self-conscious tone that sometimes borders on pontification. Jacobs telegraphs, through his sentence structure, that the reader must maintain a respectful distance. He frequently employs the past-perfect tense, and too many sentences are rendered in passive voice. These practices indicate Jacobs is not a trained writer, but he is a man with a unique life experience that is worth sharing. Nothing would serve him better than a good editor with a ruthless pen.

While reading *Songs of the Blind Snowbird*, I found myself constantly aware of blind people I would pass on the street, and much more sensitive to the challenges of their lives. And as a dog owner, Jacobs' expression of affection for his animals brought me to tears on more than one occasion. *Songs of the Blind Snowbird* provides an entrée to a parallel universe that would forever remain obscure to the average person without the guidance of someone like Robert Michael Jacobs. ▼

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Roman splendor

'Love Forbidden' ('Defense d'aimer') at film festival

by Brandon Judell

Bruce, a handsome 24-year-old French filmmaker with Italian ancestry, is spending a year in Rome at an artist's colony. Everyone there dresses in black and smokes cigarettes, so Bruce feels at home.

While sightseeing the numerous ruins, churches, and nightclubs, Bruce becomes friends with a fellow 24-year-old named Matteo (Andrea Necci), who appears to be Italian with French ancestry.

Well, one night Matteo asks if he can sleep over in Bruce's room. Bruce nods. Soon, Matteo is sleeping almost nightly, and in Bruce's bed, but he just sleeps.

Suddenly, Bruce realizes he wants to make love to Matteo. That he, Bruce, was gay before he got to Rome was never quite clear. Maybe he couldn't admit it to himself. After all, his brother, a well-known author, was gay and consequently cut off from the family. He then died, apparently from AIDS.

Well, Bruce, realizing he's going crazy not copulating with Matteo, confronts him, so they have sex, sex that is so great it's accompanied by choral music. In the morning, the duo bathe together like the perfect lovers. Then...then...then, Matteo drops out of Bruce's life without so much as an *arrivederci*, and starts fornicating with an American girl,

a writer with a thing for serial killers.

Now, director/writer Rodolphe Marconi pursues Bruce with so many adoring close-ups, you'd swear he was in love with his leading man. Then you discover Marconi is also portraying Bruce, so you could say Marconi is deeply, madly, all-encompassingly in love with himself. Is this healthy?

It is said that to be happy in life, you have to like yourself. But there are moments here when you believe too much self-love is being forced upon us viewers, so much self-indulgence that Michael Douglas appears well-balanced by comparison.

Accordingly, instead of action or clever dialogue, we have Bruce

crying, stalking Matteo, or getting drunk and being nasty to nice people.

Now, to be fair, there are obsessive, one-sided affairs that turn men or women into self-pitying jerks — and there are thousands of Matteos around who massage their own egos at the expense of submissive, co-dependent souls.

In that sense, this film is brave. *Love Forbidden* is not afraid to be fanatically romantic, and there are many beautiful moments that might have you swooning along with the stars.

But a little more self-control, a little more plot and dialogue, and fewer shots of Jesus Christ looking on, might have made this indeed intelligent film a must-see, as op-



A scene from *Love Forbidden*.

posed to an "If-I'm-not-going-to-cut-my-wrists-tonight, I-might-as-well-see-this-flick" flick.

P.S. There is a surprise, shocking ending that works extremely well. (Castro, 6/19) ▼

Garbo's lover

by Robert Julian

That Furious Lesbian by Robert A. Schanke; Southern Illinois University Press, \$45

Mercedes de Acosta had an interesting life. Of Spanish/Cuban ancestry, de Acosta was born to wealth. From her family's Manhattan home, she gained access to the Rockefellers, Astors, and other leading families of American high society. But de Acosta had an artistic bent, and she realized early in life that she was a lesbian. These latter facts changed her life's direction and ultimately proved to be her undoing.

In the 1920s, Mercedes wrote plays that were produced internationally, as well as novels and poetry. Her early success led her to affairs with many famous women, including Eva LaGallienne and Isadora Duncan. In the '30s, she became one of Marlene Dietrich's lovers and began her lifelong liaison with Greta Garbo. Unfortunately, de Acosta was so smitten with Garbo she allowed herself to be abused and discarded repeatedly by the self-impressed actress for the next 35 years. Success as a writer eluded

de Acosta after the '20s, and despite a marriage of convenience, her outrageously open lesbianism ultimately alienated her many female lovers, who clung desperately to the closet. In 1968, she died penniless in Manhattan with few friends she could call upon for assistance.

Robert A. Schanke previously penned two biographies of Eva LaGallienne. But his work with de Acosta is not quite as successful as his previous efforts. Schanke spends too much time summarizing de Acosta's plays and novels, and attempting to illuminate the author's character by inference. This speculative endeavor is neither convincing nor entertaining. *Here Lies the Heart*, de Acosta's 1960 autobiography, might provide a more direct line to her soul. But that well-received book never directly addresses her lesbianism or describes the precise nature of her relationships with women.

Schanke, to his credit, was continually forced to read between the lines. And distilling the essence of a personality from de Acosta's veiled references, and the conspicuous silence of others, is no easy task. Ultimately, de Acosta never quite emerges as a three-dimensional personality in *That Furious Lesbian*.

At times she has the soul of Sylvia Plath, or the sexual adventurousness of Errol Flynn, but the needs and desires of her heart remain as enigmatic as her life in the '50s, which gets only a cursory examination in Schanke's book. Excerpts from the personal letters of de Acosta reveal a woman caught up in her own drama and seemingly unaware that, in most respects, she is the author of her own misery.

The most interesting footnote in *That Furious Lesbian* is

Schanke's illumination of the life of de Acosta's elder sister, Rita de Acosta Stokes Lydig. One of the great beauties of her day, Rita was encouraged by her mother to marry older, wealthy, socially prominent gentlemen. She did this twice (marrying Protestants, to her mother's dismay), but both marriages ended in divorce and scandal. Rita's story could have been the basis for an Edith Wharton novel; it certainly rivals that of her devoted sister, Mercedes. ▼



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Gay days are here again

Queer gospel, synth-pop, electro-folk out on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

Perhaps the most talked-about disc of the 2003 Pride season is *The Smell of Our Own* (Rough Trade) by The Hidden Cameras. A multi-member Canadian unit, The Hidden Cameras are led by Joel Gibb, who creates a large and lush sound reminiscent of The Polyphonic Spree,

but without the tragic Texas connection. Plus, the openly gay Gibb doesn't shy away from graphic subject matter. The disc opens with the retro romp of "Golden Stream" ("Golden stream/turns from warm to cold/in frightful time/in the frozen dead of night") and closes with the exquisite plucked and stroked strings of "The Man that I Am with My Man." The "down with love" senti-

ment of "Ban Marriage" is perfect for dancing the Pony, while the hand-clapping, foot-stomping, roof-raising gay gospel of "Breathe on It" is exhilarating.



Erasure devotees will be happy to know that their 2000 disc *Loveboat* (Mute) is finally available domestically. A return to form following the detour of *Cowboy*, the album was co-produced by Erasure and Flood, and has a dark, filtered quality, giving it a more experimental bent.

Mission Impossible (Delicious) by Agency-X is more synth-pop than electroclash. A collaboration between openly gay electronic music artist David Mahr and Swedish musician Lars Wallden (of AvantGarde), Agency-X probably won't remain a secret for long.

Electro-folk duo Testosterone Kills have released an exceptional disc of tunes called *War All the Time* (Fortified) on which the self-proclaimed "Queer Sons of New York City's infamous Antifolk scene" sing about how N*Sync makes them horny. David Gray proved that synthetic beats and acoustic guitars could exist in harmony, and Tim Daly and Pablo Ratliff of Testosterone Kills keep that trend alive. Beginning with the punchy opening track "Where

I Stand" and continuing on the powerful anti-bashing number "I'm Gonna Tell Ya," Testosterone Kills keeps us listening with their songwriting skills.



Beat box

If you're craving crazy beats, I recommend *Hello Doctor* (Kill Rock Stars) by Gravy Train!!! Yes, all four exclamation marks are necessary; one for each band member, including Funk, Drunx, Chunx and Hunx. Imagine the queer electronic wizardry of Le Tigre crossed with the sexual essence of Peaches, and you're on the right track. Electroclash vixens, Gravy Train!!! tells it like it is. "We wore the little pleated skirts and hiked them up to show our goods," Chunx rails on "Titties Bounce," as she has her way with the Church. Gay boy Hunx pipes in on the explicit "Double Decker Supreme" and steals the show on "You Made Me Gay."

Bisexual lead singer Brian Molko and gay bass player Stefan Olsdal make up two-thirds of the British band Placebo. Over the course of four albums, including the latest, *Sleeping with Ghosts* (Hut/Virgin), Placebo rocks out with punk-rock fury and knocks out a dance beat like old pros. "English Summer Rain," the sec-



ond track on the disc, is ripe for remixing and dance-floor picking. Unlike the last few Placebo albums, *Sleeping with Ghosts* sounds like a band haunted by others, including Coldplay. Still, no one but Placebo could come up with "Bulletproof Cupid," so maybe it's too soon to call in a priest. Charles Stephen Hughes provides the beats and blips to keep you going from the discotheque on Saturday night to the church on Sunday morning on his *CD Love Notes* (Independent Records). Hughes combines songs of man's inhumanity to man ("This Day Shall Be") and the complexities of man-to-man love ("Love Hurts") with songs of devotion.

Beats of a different kind pulsate throughout *Visions* (Thrust Recordings) by Butt Boy. The seven songs on the disc are "designed to set the tone for dungeon scenes," a soundtrack for S&M, if you will. The seven electronic tunes vary in intensity and rhythm, and have titles such as "The Ritual of the Whip" (complete with smacking sound), "The Beating of the Minotaur," and "The Hooded Ungulate Flogger."

Odd Man Out (Repercussionz of Sovereign Art) by Nebulai is a blue-eyed soulful journey into folk funk, melding acoustic guitars and exotic instrumentation with vocals that testify to the power of love and coming out of the closet. The amazing "The Whole World's Watching" has anthem potential. Nebulai sounds like Ani DiFranco's kid brother on "Your Silence Won't Protect You." ▼

Spectrum of American music

Three gay composers out of four on disc

by Jason Serinus

Rainbow Body - Robert Spano, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (Telarc)



When I first saw the title of the new CD *Rainbow Body*, and noted that its contents include major works by two of America's most famous 20th-century gay composers, Samuel Barber and Aaron Copland, I wondered if it was meant to serve as a coming out statement. But the title instead refers to the disc's opening work, 36-year-old American composer Christopher Theofanidis' glowing *Rainbow Body*, and also serves, according to conductor Robert Spano, as a rich metaphor for the varied tapestry of American music.

Regardless of multiple entendres, this disc deserves your attention. Each of its four contemporary American works is a winning orchestral showpiece, tonally accessible and bursting with color.

Theofanidis (b. 1967) wrote *Rainbow Body* under the influence of medieval mystic Hildegard von Bingen's chant, "Ave Maria, O auxilium vite" ("Hail Mary, source of life"). As with much of Hildegard's music, *Rainbow Body* has an elevated, spiritual quality, with luminous

resonant waves of rainbow colors spiraling outwards as though generated in a cathedral setting.

Barber (1910-81) wrote his 20-minute Symphony No. 1 in 1936, revising it in 1942. It's filled with dramatic outbursts that remain within the confines of the late Romantic tonal idiom. Spano deeply underscores the work's restless churning.

The Suite from *Appalachian Spring*, among the most famous works by Copland (1900-90), derives from his ballet score for the Martha Graham Dance Company. Its initial version, debuted at the Library of Congress in 1944, employed just 13 instruments. Rescored as a suite for full orchestra, it won the 1945 Pulitzer Prize for music. *Appalachian Spring's* beautiful variations on the Shaker melody "Simple Gifts" ("Tis the gift to be simple; 'Tis the gift to be

free") are as unforgettable as Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on "Greensleeves."*

It remains one of music's great mysteries that a Jewish homosexual who began his career writing atonal and dissonant works managed to write compositions so quintessentially American that they've been used as fanfares by the Republican Party. Not surprisingly, two of the work's finest interpreters, Leonard Bernstein (Sony and DG) and Michael Tilson Thomas (RCA/BMG), were friends of Copland as well as Jewish homosexuals. No conductor has captured the magic of the work's opening vista like Bernstein, but Spano's sonics and the beautiful playing of the Atlanta Symphony make this version highly competitive.

Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962) wrote the closing *Blue Cathedral*, while imagining a journey through a glass cathedral in the sky. Composed for the 75th anniversary of Philadelphia's Curtis School of Music, where Barber taught for a time, the work "commemorates living and passing through places of knowledge, and of sharing, and of that song called life." Higdon's syntax may not be great, but her music is quite beautiful, providing a luminous conclusion to a most enjoyable disc. ▼

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MUSIC

Queer dinosaurs and others

Infectious tunes, queer harmonies out on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

As a member of the legendary British comedy troupe Monty Python's Flying Circus, Eric Idle was no stranger to cross-dressing. On his new comedy CD *The Rutland Isles with your host Nigel Spasm* (iMusic/BMG), the hetero Idle camps it up in a gay way. While researching the "fossil record," Spasm meets a man who studies the bottoms of extinct creatures, discovers the "many types of gay dinosaurs," and even introduces us to Flipper Minnelli, a dolphin who impersonates Liza Minnelli in a San Diego "very wildlife park." On a similar note, the "Gay Animal



Song" ("10% of nature's bent/At least that's what they say") is destined to become a comedic classic.

For a straight man, Harold Arlen had an uncanny gift for writing songs that connect with the gay community. After all, Arlen wrote "Over the Rainbow"

and "Get Happy." Those songs and others are on the TV soundtrack to *Stormy Weather: The Music of Harold Arlen*. If you can't gauge the queer quotient from the titles alone, perhaps the names of the performers on the CD might help. Our artists such as Rufus Wainwright ("It's Only a Paper Moon," "I Wonder What Became of Me"), Sandra Bernhard ("Come Rain or Come Shine"), Hawksley Workman ("I've Got the World on a String"), and icons such as Deborah Harry ("Stormy Weather/I'll Wind") and former New York Doll David Johansen ("Kickin' the Gong Around") help make this tribute a gay affair.

Because of infectious songs such as the Dar Williams-esque "Turning Song" and the high-flying "Seagull," *Boy in a Dress* by Namoli Brennen has become one of my favorite recent discs by a queer artist. Brennen's expressive vocals, soulful and soothing, are

the perfect vehicle for his songs. Brennen successfully merges electronic beats with organic instrumentation for riveting results.



Undeniably sexy in a '70s sexual-revolutionary kind of way, *Mad Dogs & San Franciscans* (Black Beauty) by modern-day jazz-rock fusion group Mushroom sounds like it could be the soundtrack to a grainy vintage gay porn flick, in which the men wear tube socks and nothing else. Visions of Casey

Donovan will dance in your head when you hear the instrumental "The Revolution will not be Televised, but it will be Auctioned off on E-Bay." Cranking up the queer quotient several notches is the presence of openly gay Sister Double Happiness lead singer Gary Floyd. What he does with Curtis Mayfield's "Pusherman" suggests a different kind of pushing. The "Delta Lady" in Leon Russell's song could very well have a five o'clock shadow. "Water" is the second Pete Townshend song covered by a gay man ("And I Moved" by Mark Weigle is the first) this year, and I have to wonder if it's the beginning of a trend. The album closes with the best version of "Space Captain" I have heard since Barbra Joan Streisand recorded it more than 30 years ago.

Under cover

Cover tunes are also the order page 51 ►

Russian into the breach

by Jason Serinus

Gliere: Symphony No. 3 Il'ya Murometz – London Symphony Orchestra/Leopold Stokowski, cond. (Telarc Surround)



Introducing Il'ya Murometz, "complete and uncut," just as Reinhold Gliere (1875-1956) wished you to hear his symphony about the mythical marvel named Murometz. Behold 72 minutes of seductive bombast about an innocent Russian superhero of enormous physical strength who fought evil, defended the simple folk, spoke up to authority, and first waved his sword a good 1,000 years before Clark Kent shed his garb in a phone booth. If in the end his musical representation doesn't have much substance, it nonetheless showcases him so spectacularly attired in Telarc high-resolution sound that even the most jaded will find themselves seduced by the glitz.

Gliere, who publicly tutored students as professor at the Moscow Conservatory while privately teaching the young Sergei Prokofiev, was anything but a musical revolutionary. Considered the bearer of the classical tradition both before and after the Communist revolution, his nationalistic works were praised and studied in the USSR as examples of a successful union between Eastern folklore and central European form. In no danger of condemnation by Stalin, he was a member of many official committees and was lauded as a People's Artist of the USSR. If his well-known ballets such as *The Red Poppy* (1927) and *Taras Bulba* (1952), and his oft-played "Hymn for the Great City," excerpted from his ballet *The Bronze Horseman* (1949), in the end fail to reveal an individual voice, they nonetheless contain enough rousing music to provide a classical evening's alternative to the formulaic melodies of Madonna, Britney Spears and crew.

The 20-minute second movement andante, "Il'ya Murometz and Solovoi the Brigand," offers much beauty with its orchestral birdcalls (no Messiaen dissonance here), mock animal cries, and sensual portrayal of Murometz's seduction by the daughters of the supernatural Solovoi. If these gals can't build up the erotic charge of Strauss' Salome, and the music's exoticism can't touch that of the French Impressionists, the movement nonetheless contains much undeniable beauty.

Unless your ancient Russian blood has already been set aboil, you probably don't give a damn about the stories that inspire Gliere's third and fourth movements. Suffice it to say that the third offers lots of wondrous excitement, while the tremendous triumph communicated in the fourth's portrayal of Murometz's heroic deeds will shake the rafters and drive evil spirits from your door. You may not remember any of the tunes, but you'll undoubtedly mutter, "Wow!" ▶

Pilgrim's progress

Il'ya Murometz was written between 1909 and '11. An attempt to create a picturesque nationalistic epic, its programmatic content seems more than coincidentally

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Pride of the lions

Gay MGM films out on DVD

by Philip Campbell

eo the MGM lion is letting out a big gay roar this month. The studio has re-released a whole batch of queer movies on DVD. The pride of lions is sharing June Pride with seven notable features at reasonable list prices.

From the ridiculous to the sublime, the lot includes the cartoonish *Jeffrey*; *Wigstock*; the very wrongheaded *It's My Party* and the complex, perfectly realized *My Beautiful Laundrette*. Here is a closer look at three of my favorites.



The Sum of Us Before Russell Crowe hit it big as a gladiator with 'tude, he played a gay athlete in the sweet-natured story of a boy and his remarkably accepting dad. Based on the play by David Stevens, the movie follows a year in their relationship.

A big star Down Under, Jack Thompson gives a charming performance as the sentimental father who only wants to see his son happy with another man. He pursues a liaison of his own with a lady through a matchmaking service while Russell sings the blues over a closeted John Polson.

Against the background of a harborside village in blue-collar Australia, the pair go through a series of sad and funny experiences that ultimately bond them forever after the father suffers a paralyzing stroke.

There are enough soap opera

touches to make this domestic drama seem a little cloying at times. Still, the strong performances and the truly heartwarming message of unconditional love make a genuine impact. It doesn't hurt that Crowe makes a surprisingly believable gay guy, or that he looks mighty fetching in his "footy" shorts, either.



The Hanging Garden From a model relationship in the Southern part of the world to a frighteningly dysfunctional family in the far North of Canada: Thom Fitzgerald's award-winning debut would make an interesting contrast on a double bill.

Returning to his family after a 10-year absence, Sweet William arrives late for his sister's wedding (to the first man he had sex with). The present is spooky enough, but the back-story is much worse.

As an obese teenager at the mercy of a drunken, abusive father, William actually attempted suicide in his dad's beloved garden before blowing town. A dementia-ridden grandmother, bitterly unhappy mother, and foul-mouthed fag-hag sister with a sexually confused bridegroom do little to improve his mental health.

It isn't long before the trimmed-down, big-city sophisticate is power-munching junk food and taking long hits on his asthma inhaler. To Fitzgerald's credit, the distinct aroma of Tennessee Williams never forces the fantastic situation too far over the top.

The bittersweet interactions and surprise ending are a little confusing at first look, but the bizarre humor and evocative music help the tortured story to an improbably upbeat ending. *The Hanging Garden* deserves a place in anyone's DVD collection. File under "Family Films."



Bent Already admired as a playwright and stage director, Sean Mathias made his transition to the screen with a powerful and assured adaptation of Martin Sherman's play in 1997. The re-mastering to letterboxed DVD is a brilliant success, but I don't advise watching it alone.

The Nazi persecution of homosexuals is a horrific cautionary tale that must be told. As a memory of the Holocaust, the pink triangle evokes the same kind of terror as the murder of millions of Jews. "Perverts" were considered even lower than non-Aryans.

A cynical young Berliner strikes a miserable deal with his captors en route to a concentration camp. He betrays his lover in order to wear the Jewish star instead of the dreaded pink badge.

Dazed and deadened by the enormity of his actions, he goes to work in the camp moving stones from one pile to another and back again. After some time, he bribes a guard to send a young gay internee to work with him.

The openly out and intensely angry "pervert" balks at the forced relationship, but is powerless in the circumstances. After seasons of doing the purposely crazy-making work, the pair eventually fall in love.

To a minimalist score by Philip Glass and against a stark set design in the monochromatic quarry, the screenplay masterfully depicts the inevitability of love under horrendous conditions. In one famous and controversial scene, the two men have sex to orgasm without ever touching.

The Samuel Beckett-like absurdity and despair of their situation is defined in the spare dialogue and stylized action. By the time *Bent* reaches its final, gut-wrenching scenes, you will be sobbing. The effect is cathartic, but I probably won't be able to watch it again until Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Clive Owen and Lothaire Bluteau give excruciatingly real performances. Ian McKellen is an old "auntie" and Brian Webber as the betrayed lover are also superb. Mick Jagger appears in drag (those lips take a lot of lipstick) for a remarkable cameo and sings the haunting "Streets of Berlin" over the final credits.

A triumph of the will and a triumphant film, *Bent* is perfect for Pride month. See it with people you love. ▶

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15th Lambda Literary Awards announced

English, Irish authors garner fiction prizes

The 15th Annual Lambda Literary Awards were presented on May 29 at a gala ceremony in the Los Angeles Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Awards were presented in 20 categories. Honors in Gay and Lesbian Fiction went to two historical novels, Irish author Jamie O'Neill's *At Swim Two Boys* and English author Sarah Waters' *Fingersmith*.

The Lambda Literary Awards are chosen in a three-part process. Publishers and other authorized representatives submit books for consideration in the fall. A panel of industry professionals selects five finalists in each category. Finally, panels of judges in each category select the winning title. A complete list of awards follows.

Gay Men's Fiction *At Swim Two Boys*, Jamie O'Neill (Scribner)

Lesbian Fiction *Fingersmith*, Sarah Waters (Riverhead Books)

Gay Men's Poetry *Hazmat*, J.D. McClatchy (Alfred A. Knopf)

Lesbian Poetry *Mules of Love*, Ellen Bass (BOA Editions, Ltd.)

Gay Men's Mystery *The Snow Garden*, Christopher Rice (Miramax Books)

Lesbian Mystery (tie): *Innoculate Midnight*, Ellen Hart (St. Martin's Press); *Good Bad Woman*, Elizabeth Woodcraft (Kensington Publishing)

Fiction Anthology *Black Like Us*, Devon Carbado, Dwight McBride and Don Weise, eds. (Cleis Press)

Nonfiction Anthology *The Man I Might Become*, Bruce Shennit, ed. (Marlowe & Company)

Memoir/Autobiography *Surviving Madness*, Betty Berzon (University of Wisconsin Press)

Biography *Ridiculous! The Theatrical Life and Times of Charles Ludlam*, David Kaufman (Applause Theatre & Cinema Books)

Children's/Young Adult *Letters in the Attic*, Bonnie Shinko (Academy Chicago Press)

Erotica *Best Lesbian Erotica 2003*, Tristan Taormino, ed. (Cleis Press)

Humor *Skipping Toward Gomorrah*, Dan Savage (Dutton)

Visual Arts/Photography *A Hidden Love*, Dominique Fernandez (Prestel)

Romance *The Winter of Our Discontent*, Andrew W.M. Beierle (Kensington Publishing)

Science Fiction/Fantasy *Queer Fear II*, Michael Rowe, ed. (Arse-nal Pulp Press)

Religion/Spirituality *Courage to Love*, Geoffrey Duncan (The Pilgrim Press)

LGBT Studies *Sex-Crime Panic*, Neil Miller (Alyson Publications)

Transgender *Dress Codes*, Noelle Howey (Picador USA)

LGBT Independent Press Kings Crossing Publishing

Bridge Builder Awards Judy Shepard, The Matthew Shepard Foundation; Betty DeGeneres

Editor's Choice Award *The World Turned*, John D'Emilio (Duke University Press)

Pioneer Award Barbara Grier, The Naiad Press ▼

Dominant women

Lesbians making music

by Gregg Shapiro

If there is one consistent element in the world of LGBT music, it's the dominance of women in the scene. The Irish duo Zrazy (Carole Nelson and Maria Walsh) are one of the most visible lesbian groups, constantly touring across North America. Because of their touring schedule, it makes sense that they would release a live album. *Living Our Lives* (Alfi) is made up of songs from Zrazy's three studio discs, as well as three new songs and a lovely piano-and-vocal version of "How Can I Be Sure."

Because the supply of lesbian singer-songwriters seems to be limitless, it's that much more imperative that each woman create a unique sound. Beth Davis does just that on *Savage House* (10th Child). Based in Indianapolis, Davis writes songs with a country-blues edge, kind of like a queer Susan Tedeschi. "Fallin' Down" is a toe-tapping tune that sounds like a country radio hit, while most of the remaining tunes are a mix of more straightforward blues and acoustic-based numbers.

Norine Braun describes the songs on *Now & Zen* (Braun and Brains) as "ambient soul pop with elements of hip hop, jazz and punk." The sheer variety on this album sets Braun apart. She lures the listener in with the melodic pop of "Jade," and shifts gears on the darkly laid-out folk of the title track.

A number of lesbian singer-songwriters have taken an acoustically driven direction. I had been reading a lot about Ellis before I heard her third solo disc, *Everything That's Real*. I think it was a case of too much hype, as I was somewhat disappointed in what I heard. But with her latest album, *Tigers Above Tigers Below* (Rubberneck), Ellis has made me a convert. Backed up by a group of terrific musicians, Ellis begins things on an uplifting note with "Give Me Your Hand." The high quality of the songwriting and performance is consistent

throughout the album.

Young, queer anti-folk artist Jenn Lindsay reminds me of early Suzanne Vega on her album *Gotta Lotta* (No Evil Star). The Lower East Side references and her phrasing have something to do with it, and her songwriting also plays a part. I was somewhat less taken with *Fly* (Passionfruit Produce) by Martine Locke, because I couldn't find much on the album to distinguish her from the rest of the women in the field.

Effigy (YoYo) by Nomy Lamm, the self-described "badass fatass jew dyke amputee, performance artist, writer and activist," is a synth-beat concoction that crisscrosses melodic mantras with hip hop rhymes. "Miracle," with its accordion and violin, sounds like an old-world cabaret number. "Not a Girl" is evocative electroclash, "Tear Up the Basement" is a punk parody of girl-group sentiments, and Lamm's cover of Sinead O'Connor's "Just like You Said it would Be" is a tribute to the writer.



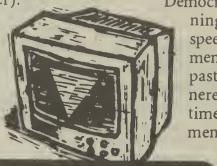
Just as the all-female hard punk rock band Betty Blowtorch was starting to heat up, the fire went out when band member Bianca Butthole died in a car accident in 2001. Betty Blowtorch, which counted openly gay Blare N. Bitch as one-fourth of the group, rocked the house like nobody's business. *Last Call* (Food-chain), a 29-track compilation of live tracks, outtakes and rare tracks, sums up the quartet's brief history via songs such as "Party 'Til Ya Puke," "Fish Taco," "Teenage Whore," and "Size Queen." ▼

Fast and furious

by Victoria A. Brownworth

If you thought the summer TV season was a snooze in the making, you thought wrong. Exciting TV tidbits have been coming as fast and furious as those ubiquitous summer storms down Tornado Alley.

Our favorite TV moment of the past week was an exchange between (Lez)Bianca and a supermodel on *All My Children*, the most queer-hip moment on network TV we ever witnessed (but more on that later). There were many fantastic (in the truest sense of the term) TV moments this week, and news does trump soaps, even if it sometimes looks a little similar to the daytime sud-



sers. Case in point: Democratic presidential hopeful Dick Gephardt's daughter Chrissy revealed her lesbianism in an exclusive with ABC's George Stephanopoulos on *Good Morning America*. We liked the witty suburban-cum-punk Chrissy, with her spiky, Arctic-blond hair and Talbot's pantsuit. What a welcome relief from stolid Candace Gingrich and the elusive Mary Cheney (no doubt in an undisclosed location like her father, who's hiding out from the latest revelations on how Halliburton is bilking Americans of billions in Iraq): smart, earnest, charming. Finally, a new lesbian face to grace the covers of the queer mags. Oh joy!

The true TV moment was not the coming out of Chrissy, however, who, while safely married to a man, met a woman named Amy (and, as any Indigo Girls fan can attest, the rest is history). Rather, it was the deer-in-the-headlights look of stunned omnigodness on the face of her father, who joined her to show his support. We felt a little sorry for Dick, who has been touted as the Democratic frontrunner. Not only trumped by his own daughter, but also forced into an impromptu national TV debate with his daughter about queer marriage (he's for civil unions, she's for queer marriage). It was bad enough the only reason he got part of the first half-hour of *GMA* was his daughter's revelation. But insult to injury, those pesky Clintons had already led the show.

Yet more fab TV moments. If the Democrats are going to weasel their way back into the White House in 2004, they'd better start dealing with the charisma factor underscored by the Gephardt *pas de deux*. Smart, sassy, earnest, engaging (not to mention cute — always good for the TV nation), Chrissy's presentation was so TV-

perfect we would vote for her after 10 minutes of interview. Yet we can't imagine voting for Dad, whom we've interviewed face-to-face. This is the Dems' tragic TV tale: When they do get that desperately needed facetime, they can't parlay it.

Grab fest

The Clintons know how to grab and parlay facetime. According to last week's Hillary-inspired TV polls, a majority of Democrats would vote for a Clinton (Hillary or Bill) before they'd vote for any

Democrat currently running for Prez. Bill's speeches for environmental groups in the past two weeks garnered more TV facetime than any of the men and women currently running for President (and they were doing televised debates). Then Hillary grabbed more TV facetime than even George Bush pushing his Mideast plan. Between the Barbara Walters and Katie Couric interviews (and all the pre- and post-interview teasers and excerpts) and book-tour bites, Hillary was a mini ratings bonanza.

There are other Democrats out there, but they can't seem to wrest the TV limelight away from the Clintons. TV newsmen like Mark Shields on the PBS *NewsHour* and the entire roundtable on NBC's *Meet the Press*, suggested after the week's Clintonmania that this bodes ill for the 2004 race. Despite Bill's offhand comments about repealing the 22nd Amendment and Hillary's assertion that she's not running for President, the Clintons remain, if TV ratings and polls are to be believed (and unless Jayson Blair is conducting them, they are accurate), the Democratic frontrunners. The Clintons are what the other Dems are not: celebrities. As such, the TV cameras simply can't stay away.

The new bachelor on NBC's summer reality ratings-grabber, *For Love or Money*, got more than blood pumping this week when he was canned from his real job as an attorney after details from the show revealed he had been kicked out of the military for groping a senior naval officer (no, not a man, a woman — gotcha!) NBC asserted the most important part of this story was that the show will not be impacted by this revelation. Uh-huh.

The smarmy concept of *For Love or Money* is that the chick who plays best at loving the guy wins a million dollars but may not love him at all (he doesn't know they're playing for money). In a reality show this icky, it's some-

how unsurprising that the show's star has some unsavory sexual action in his past. When will the networks stop playing to the worst common denominator among us? When will Americans consider integrity more important than facetime?

Children's crusade

Speaking of facetime, Bianca and Lena are certainly getting theirs on *All My Children*. We are sooo loving this story we can't wait to fast-forward through the hot plots to get our daily lesbian soap fix. AMC writers just get bolder and bolder. They keep putting Bianca's mother Erica against Bianca's lovers (this week, Erica tried to get the Polish Lena deported). It's so realistic. We're pretty sure Dick Gephardt might have thought fleetingly about deportation for that home-wrecker Amy this week.

Then Erica decided to fight fire with fire. The cosmetics magnate brought in a lesbian supermodel (*more verisimilitude* — we love that) to try and woo Bianca away from Lena at a surprise dinner meeting. The supermodel, Christy, was talking about living in the Village ("Greenwich Village?" Bianca asked) and going to her timeshare in the summer ("Let me guess," Bianca snapped. "Cherry Grove?")

We're pretty sure few AMC viewers have ever heard of Cherry Grove or know it to be the lesbian hot-spot of Fire Island, but we had to give the AMC writers big props for maneuvering this little exchange into the script for those of us who do (thus making Bianca even more believably lesbian because she knows, too). Are the AMC folks doing their homework, or what?

We also applauded when Bianca chased her mother from the restaurant but asked Christy to stay for dinner (the better to freak an unsuspecting Lena when she caught the two toasting to true love!) If you aren't watching this soap yet, you are missing some stellar moments in lesbian TV history.

Speaking of TV history, when David Brinkley died at 82 last week, many viewers under 40 had no memory of the impact he had on the tube, though nearly everyone who had ever heard him remembered the cadence of his distinctive voice and the signature "Good night David, Good night Chet" rejoinder which echoed through American households for decades. Nearly 50 years in TV journalism on NBC and ABC, 10 Emmy awards, and a host of other journalistic accolades made Brinkley one of the most dynamic figures in television news. He was half of the premiere nightly news team on NBC, the [Chet] Huntley-Brinkley Report.



'Good night, David' Brinkley

Huntley-Brinkley's coverage of political conventions was groundbreaking. Brinkley's wry wit put political commentary on the TV map. When NBC ditched him after Huntley's death, ABC snatched him up and created *This Week* for him. Ratings skyrocketed for 20 years. Until his retirement as the show's anchor in 1996, he dominated Sunday mornings.

Brinkley had integrity, and in the end it sealed his TV fate. He disliked Bill Clinton and disses him thoroughly when he thought he was off-air during the 1996 election night coverage; soon he was no longer anchoring *This Week*, but merely delivering the final commentary after the round-table. He apologized for the manner of his comments, but not for

the statements themselves. Brinkley had much mettle and little meanness. He was shrewd and had a remarkably keen sense about politics in America.

Also on the TV news beat, our heart breaks since our fave middle-of-the-night news face, ABC's *World News Now* anchor Liz Cho, had her last day Friday (leaving to anchor the New York nightly newscast). We'll miss her fantastic hair, her perfect teeth, her ability to wear a man's shirt better than any woman since Greta Garbo, and do it on national TV. Her witty repartee, oh-so-smartness and generally superb newscasting magnetized our insomniac-news-junkie self every night. We know we'll get over her, as we did our infatuations with her queer-ish predecessors, Thalia Assuras and Anderson Cooper. But anyone who denies TV makes a mark on us doesn't watch. Brinkley, the Clintons, Bianca, Cho, TV gives us more than face. Stay tuned.

Bonus VCR alert: Check your PBS listings this month for a range of Pride programming, particularly on *POV*, which has queer and transgender shows scheduled, and *In the Life*, which never lets Pride go by without the appropriate fanfare. ▶

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Driver's "Oh Starsky," deserve to become as familiar as the other songs.

Openly queer harmony vocalist Joe Coffey helps give insurgent country band Urban Twang its community edge on their album *Vintage* (Sweet Pickle). Longtime collaborators Trish Clause and Max Getzel have evolved their musical sound over 20 years to include pop ska before clueing in to the Americana vibe. Clause's emotive vocals give Urban Twang an advantage over many of the male-led insurgent country bands, providing the songs with down-home big-city warmth. ▶

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Queers on CD

◀ page 47

of the day on *Togetherness* (Bar/None), the remarkable collaboration between Gretchen Phillips and David Driver. Both Phillips & Driver had impressive careers before teaming up to record this album. Phillips is probably best known as the driving force behind legendary lesbian rock bands 2 Nice Girls and Girls in the Nose. Driver did time onstage in musicals, and also fronted bands such as Meow and Driver Quartet. They bring

Austin, TX and New York City together in a way I've never heard before. There's an equal balance of torch and twang that is so refreshing it's like hearing these songs for the first time. Leonard Cohen's "Joan of Arc" (which is equal to the version performed by Cohen and Jennifer Warnes on her *Famous Blue Raincoat* album), Badfinger's "Day by Day" (probably the best song on the disc), Barry Manilow's "Could it be Magic?", and "Ready for Love" by Bad Company have a fresh coat of paint and shine like there's no tomorrow. The two originals, Phillips' "Lesson" and

Driver's "Oh Starsky," deserve to become as familiar as the other songs.

Openly queer harmony vocalist Joe Coffey helps give insurgent country band Urban Twang its community edge on their album *Vintage* (Sweet Pickle). Longtime collaborators Trish Clause and Max Getzel have evolved their musical sound over 20 years to include pop ska before clueing in to the Americana vibe. Clause's emotive vocals give Urban Twang an advantage over many of the male-led insurgent country bands, providing the songs with down-home big-city warmth. ▶

OUT&ABOUT

Fri 20

SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band @ Bethany United Methodist Church

"The Tonic of Wildness," a concert on wilderness and fantasy featuring the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, conducted by Artistic Director Jadine Louie. From the words of Henry David Thoreau: "We need the tonic of wildness. . . At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be infinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable." On the program: *The Council Oak*, David Gillingham's tribute to the Seminole people; Mendelssohn's *Fingal's Cave Overture*; Percy Grainger's *Ye Banks & Braes O' Bonnie Doon*; John Williams' *Harry Potter Suite*; Leroy Anderson's *Bugler's Holiday*; and Currow's *Canticle of the Creatures*. Free admission. 8:15pm showtime. 1268 Sanchez St. (at Clipper). Info: 255-1355; www.slgfb.org

B/GLAM Arts Festival @ The Center

Join curators and co-founders Marvin K. White and Cedric Brown for the 3rd Annual B/GLAM Arts Festival, a

three-day celebration of word, visual art and performance, featuring some of the most dynamic working artists in the Bay Area, uniquely telling both forgotten and new stories of Black Gay Men. B/GLAM broadens the brush stroke, sings the new song, dances the familiar and new dance, all at the intersections of blackness, affection, family, community and love. \$7-\$12 sliding. 8pm Fri & Sat, June 20-21; 1pm Sun, June 22. Ceremonial Room, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 3340-Qcc (0722); www.queerculturalcenter.org

'Fresh Meat 2003' @ ODC Theater

NQAF Event: The runaway hit of the 2002 National Queer Arts Festival returns, updated with the hottest TG/queer performers in homo hip-hop, modern dance, all-girl breakdance, steamy tango, femme/butch spoken word, tranny glam rock, and more. Featuring Marcus Rene Van, Veronica Combs, Sean Dorsey, Shawna Virago and The Deadly Nightshade Family, Jose Navarrete and Debby Kajiyama, Sisterz of the Underground, STEAMROLLER Dance Company, Angelo Hannah, Tina D'Elia, Michelle Ito, Jaycyn Perez, JenRO, and the Transcendence Gospel Choir. \$12 adv; \$15 door. 8pm. 3153 17th St. (at Showell). Tix/info: 863-9834.

'Desire & Creation' @ Jon Sims Center

NQAF Event: Sanya Latifa Trotter explores the concept of motherhood in "Desire and Creation: An Anti-Oppressionist Dream of Motherhood," looking at the dream within the context of race, homophobia, militarism and patriarchy. \$7-\$12 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimcenter.org

Hanifah Walidah @ BRAVA Theater Center

NQAF Event: Poet, musician, actress Hanifah Walidah performs her multi-character show "Straight Black Folks' Guide to Gay Black Folks," set in Anyblock, USA, where there's Dee who runs the neighborhood daycare, the Cheatum clan who run

the Friday fish-fry, Top Pop the elder, Cuzin' Puddin', a social worker and Top Pop's favorite manchild. Just down the block is Lynn who sells incense, books and loves ladies with pretty feet. And more. \$20 adv; \$22 door. 8pm. Thru June 22. 2789 24th St. (at York St.). Tix/info: 647-2822; Ticketweb.com; brava.org

'Mediums Collide' @ SomArts Theater

NQAF Event: "Mediums Collide/Artists Combined," a mind-rocking night of multimedia performance with poet Sini Anderson, sound genius Elisa Baldwin, projections by the Point Blank Photographer's Group, live video by Killer Banshee Studios, with special guest from Canada Veda Hille performing the U.S. premiere of "Field Study," her award-winning composition, performed on piano, accompanied by the video created for it by BC filmmaker Shawn Chappelle. \$8-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 3340-Qcc (0722); www.queerculturalcenter.org

'Best Buck in the Bay' @ San Jose Airport Hyatt

Opening event: The Int'l Gay Rodeo Assn. and Bud Light present "Best Buck in the Bay," the 12th Annual SF Bay Area Gay Rodeo & Festival, June 20-22, put on by the Golden State Gay Rodeo Assn. Bay Area Chapter, with events at the San Jose Airport Hyatt and the new rodeo grounds at Driscoll Ranches, La Honda. Today at the Hyatt: "Jim Beam Welcome Pool Party" (3-7:30pm), with music, entertainment, poolside drinks, and cow-pokes aplenty. Free. Contestant registration: 6-9pm. Warm-up country dance and chapter royalty crowning: \$10 cover; 8pm-1am. 1740 North First St., San Jose. \$45 all-events weekend pass. Info: 415-561-9228; www.bayarearodeo.com

'nightShift' @ YBCA

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, blashaus and Golden Gate Recordings present "nightShift," a dance party that fuses art, music and entertainment, a late-night version of the popular Shift happy hour events hosted by EpiCenter, YBCA's membership group for young arts enthusiasts. Spectacular video imagery. Electronic music. In the Forum: the UK's Ben Watt (Everything But The Girl; Lazy Dog); DJs Ellen Ferrato, Laird & Martel. Projections by blashause. In the Grand Lobby: Topn One (trip- & hip-hop; downtempo; rock); DJ Polywog; and Jeffrodeezia; low-tech gaming

installation by the Bureau of Low Technology. In the Screening Room: "Transcinema," with shorts from Warp Films and the artists of RELINE. \$18 adv, \$20 door. 8pm-1am. 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 978-ARTS (2787); YerbaBuenaArts.org

victoria mcnichol kelly @ Noh Space

"If I holler..." a one-person, multi-charactered performance by poet/visual & performing artist/singer/clown victoria mcnichol kelly exploring the myths of freedom and equality and the dynamics of power. \$10-\$15. 8pm. Also on June 21 & 22. Noh space. 2240 Mariposa St. Tix/info: 510-601-5234.

'THIS obedience' potluck @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Celebrate the U.S. premiere of *THIS obedience* at a Minnesota-style Lutheran potluck. The film documents the ordination of The Rev Anita Hill, a lesbian in a committed relationship, by a Lutheran congregation in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the events that followed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The film premieres Sat., June 21, 3:15pm at Herbst Theater, and is part of the SF-Int'l Lesbian/Gay Film Fest. 5-7pm. 1101 O'Farrell St. (near Gough). Info: jeannejanson@aol.com

Michael Johnstone @ Live Art Gallery

Opening reception: "Swing Time," new photos by Michael Johnstone from the series "Mrs. Vera's Daybook," a whimsical, sometimes disturbing look at gender, mood swings, survival and queer sensibilities. Also new digital photos from the "Velocity Series," looking at street scenes twice. Free. 6:30-9:30pm. Show runs thru June 30. 151 Potrero St. (near 15th St.). Info: 431-5779; sonic66@scbglobal.net

'In This Instant' @ Gallery Lux

Opening reception: "In This Instant - New Photography," works by David Black, Kathryn Hillier, Kirsten Norraine, and Rebecca Veit. 6pm. 521 Seventh St. Info: 864-2222; www.luxdesign.com

'Hank Tavares Performance Fest' @ The Center

NQAF Event: QueLAQO (Queer Latino Artists Coalition) and the QCC (Queer Cultural Center) present the "Hank Tavares Performance Festival," a mixture of song, fashion, music and dance featuring Emael, "Requiem To Gwen Araujo," Carlos Manuel, and visiting artist Tiana Ramirez. \$7-\$12 sliding. 6pm reception; 7pm show. Also on June 21. Rainbow Room, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 3340-Qcc (0722); www.queerculturalcenter.org

Eliot Fintushel's 'Apocalypse' @ The Marsh

Eliot Fintushel's "Apocalypse: The Book of Revelation." Using masks and playing ancient songs on exotic instruments, Eliot Fintushel embodies the Whore of Babylon, a band of blood-thirsty angels, and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse in this chilling, word-for-word rendition of Christianity's closed book, *Revelation*. Set in Iraq. \$12-\$17. Fri/Sat 8pm. Thru June 28 (no show Fri, June 27). 1062 Valencia St. Tix/info: 826-5750.

'The Ladies Who...' @ Theatre Tableau Vivant

"The Ladies Who . . . The Wit of Ruth Draper," recreating Draper's clever characterizations of women old and young, most famously of pretentious New York socialites. Featuring chanteuse/culture columnist/carpenter Veronica Klaus (host of the Saturday Pride Main Stage Jazz/Blues show); costume designer/fashion guru Jeffery Simpson (*Half A Dozen Dorothy's*); Princess Kennedy (*Pepperspray*; *Glam-a-Rama!*); Glamamore (alt-ater sensation in SF & NYC); Arturo Galster (Miss Patsy Cline); "Christmas with the Crawfords," etc.). \$15 donation. 7:30 & 10pm. Also on Sat., June 21. 574 Natoma St. (btwn 6th & 7th, Mission & Howard). Res: Llemana@aol

Nectar Women's Stage Benefit @ Club Galia

Live bands come together to benefit The SF Pride Women's Stage, "Nectar." Featuring Sunshine and Caroleen (Waycross), Jackie Strano (Hail Marys), Chi Chi Palace, Sistas in the Pit, Secret Janet, The Hunks and Angela Valley. \$5. 8pm. 21+w/D. 2565 Mission St. (at 21st). Info: 970-9777

Faeerie Solstice Party @ Club 220

Join with radical faeries to celebrate the night and welcome the sun. This will be a midsummer sexual celebration with liberating DJs Jamez, Monkeyboy, Psiyon and Pup, enlightening videos, frisky faerie action (condoms and lube provided), exotic rites & ecstatic drumming. Clothing optional (clothes check available). Hosted by Scooterpie, Benjamin, Jokie and Kit-Ten. \$5-\$25 sliding donation (supports the Faerie Freedom Village at Pride). 18+w/D. 220 Jones (at Turk). 11pm until the sun comes up!

'Mr. & Miss Gay Latino' @ Esta Noche

Esta Noche presents the Mr. & Miss Gay Latino 2003 Beauty Pageant and Contest, featuring cash prizes, special guest, and trophies in the categories of Talent, Swing Wear, and Evening Wear. Emcees: Empress Alexis Miranda and Tony Chavez. Live performance by Queens of the Night. A benefit for AIDS organizations. 9pm. 3079 16th St. (near Valencia).

Sat 21

'When Pigs Fly' @ NCTC

Extended run: Howard Crabtree's *When Pigs Fly*, an Obie Award-winning gay musical revue conceived by celebrated costume designer Howard Crabtree and Mark Waldrop, with sketches and lyrics by Mark Waldrop and music by Dick Gallagher. Directed/choreographed by Earl Weaver; music direction by George Quick, with Tom Shaw on keyboards. \$18-\$28. Wed-Sat 8pm; Sun 2pm (no show June 29). Thru July 13. New Conservatory theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

'Best Buck in the Bay' @ Driscoll Ranches

The 12th Annual San Francisco Bay Area Gay Rodeo & Festival kicks off at Driscoll Ranches at 9am, with the Grand Entry Parade at noon. Vendor fair, hot cowboys & cowgirls, rough stock, roping, speed & camp events. The rodeo & festival continue Sunday. \$15 (children 14 & under free). \$45 all-events weekend pass. 6635 La Honda Road, La Honda. Info: 415-561-9228; www.bayarearodeo.com

'Rarity of Me'

@ Burriel Clay Theater

Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble (KKDE) presents "Rarity of Me," with writings, spoken word, and movement by KKDE and volunteers from W.A.R. (Women Against Rape). Featuring the world premiere of "Rarity of Me" (about what it means to be a woman, and why sometimes it's not easy to be one) and a revival of the audience favorite "Vision." \$15 adv; \$18 door. 8pm. Burriel Clay Memorial Theater, 762 Fulton St. (Civic Center BART accessible). Tix/info: 510-801-4523; www.kkde.org

'Thrive' @ The Center

Coffee and conversation social presented by "Thrive," a group of gay HIV+ people breaking the chains of isolation. Donation welcome. 1-3pm. 1800 Market St., 1st floor.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Pride's the shit!

Oh, sorry for the expletive, but obviously I mean it in a nice way, as in "it's the shit, dahling!" I do try to stay with the times, and can't help noticing an abundance of "the shit" in San Francisco, and I'm not referring to crap in the gutters.

Fabulousness abounds! We've got that old spirit again! It has something to do with our nervousness about the times, the way wars and invasions of all sorts seem up-close, personal and omnipresent. Nervous nellies is a term we might reclaim just about now, though I can see an outcry from the butch among us.

But see what nervousness can produce! The abundance of wildly enlightened, darkly enchanting, daring, brazenly inventive entertainments being offered this Pride season is truly operatic.

That much was made clear last Saturday, June 14 at Greg Taylor's elaborate *Forgotten Opera* party (www.ggreg.com), which drew an amazing crowd of costumed revelers and featured a captivating live performance by soprano Marisa Lenhardt (www.marisalenhardt.com), a 1997 graduate of the SF Conservatory of Music whose career has ranged from singing the works of Chris Brubeck with opera legend Frederica von Stade to annually singing arias in the Death Guild Thunderdome out on the playa at Burning Man. As the slender, darkly beautiful Lenhardt perched on the balcony overlooking the packed main dance floor — lords, ladies, queer nuns and everyone else transfixed by her delicate aura — DJ Gavin Hardkiss (aka Hawk) got his original "Forgotten Opera" mix going, over part of which Lenhardt layered a soul-stirring version of Puccini's "O mio babbino caro" from *Gianni Schicchi*. Then came a spectacular techn/o/punk mix using elements from Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and the sound track to *The Fifth Element*, composed by Eric Serra. The piece had a rarefied, otherworldly quality that Lenhardt drew out with soaring ease. Brava to her, and to Taylor for arranging all the magnificent SF Opera costumes and props. And the Stonehenge of Porta-Potties was definitely the shit.

Another wild party I managed to make last weekend was "Cheap Trick," the Jeff Chandler/Gary Green production on Friday night at The Stud. Unlike its bastard cousin "Reform Skool" on Thursday nights, "Cheap Trick" has enough class to get actual live performers, and this time it was one Houston Bernard ("the biggest dick in Electro"), a hunky queer white techno-rapper from The Bronx, who hit lots of obnoxious notes, talkin' nasty-boy hip-hop shit about shovin' his whutnot up our collective whatever. The audience sort of sucked it up, but it wasn't exactly a bunch of gangsters in that room; the gay boys and straight couples barely got up enough moxy to tell Bernard to shove it up his own a couple of times before they were demanding the return of DJs Monkeyboy, Big Red, and Adrian & the Mysterious D, who always spin heads, but not by acting like jerks. Anyway, the idea was cool; Houston could be the shit, he just needs to bounce his anger off a more dangerous audience. ▶



Marisa Lenhardt

Sun 22

SF Bicycle Coalition
'Tales of the City' tour
 The SF Bicycle Coalition and A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books team up to celebrate Pride Month with a bike tour of Armistead Maupin's SF, from Grace Cathedral to Glide, from Perry's to the PU Club. Discover the real Barbary Lane, the site of the jockey shorts dance contest, the cliff where Norm met his end and much more. Free. Noon-3pm. Meet at the bookstore at 601 Van Ness Ave. (at Opera Plaza). Info: tours@sfbike.org

'Geezers' Ball'

@ Green Room

It's the "Third Annual Geezers' Ball" for midlife and senior gay/bi men, sponsored by the STOP AIDS Project's "In Our Prime," Midlife Gay Men, New Leaf, and other organizations. Swing to the sounds of Big Band, disco, *música Latina*, and today's hits. Come along and meet someone new or bring friends. Party dress encouraged. The Ball seized "geezer" in an act of empowerment just as the community seized "queer." Free. 4-7pm. The Green Room of the SF War Memorial Bldg., 401 Van Ness Ave. Preregistration (avoid long lines): 575-0155.

'Mr. Sister'

@ SomArts Rear Gallery

NQAF Event: "Mr. Sister," a queer musical showcase presented by Mr. Lady Records & Sister Spit, with queer bands and kick-ass projectionists. Inside/outside stages featuring Tammy Hart, Shelly Doty, Boy Scout, Shawna Virago and the Deadly Night Shade, Tartufi, Veda Hille, Veronica Lip Gloss & The Evil Eyes, Nomy Lamm, Sisterz of the Underground, The Haggard, Tribe 8, The Quails, The Passion Dance Troupe, and special musical guests. Curated by Tammy Rae Carland and Sini Anderson. Bring ID if you drink. \$10-\$25. 4pm-12am. All ages. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 3340-Qc (0722); www.queerculturalcenter.org

'The Marsh Mitzvah'

@ The Marsh

Join The Marsh for its 13th Birthday Coming-of-Age Celebration and Fundraiser. Performances by Sara Felder, Lisa Geduldig, Morey Goldstein and Katie Gethorn, Wayne Harris, David Hirata, Merle Kessler, Lunaticque Fantastique, Scoop Nisker and Charlie Varon. Culinary delights from all over. \$35. 6-9pm. 1062 Valencia St. Tix/info: 826-5750.

Mon 23

'Monsters of Queer Comedy'

@ The Center

QComedy presents "Monsters of Queer Comedy," hosted by Maureen Brownsey, with legends of the biz Tom Ammiano, Janis Lipton, Doug Holclaw, Lisa Geduldig, Morey Goldstein, Marilyn Pittman, and Bridget Schwartz. These comics have been plying their trade in some cases since the days of the Valencia Rose and Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint. SF is lucky to have these comic fountainheads as community resources. If you only see one comedy show this Pride season, this is the one guaranteed to grab your funny bone. \$10-\$15 sliding. 7pm doors; 8pm show. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org. Info: www.Qcomedy.com

'Transgender Pride Awards'

@ The Center

Come out and celebrate community diversity at "The First Annual Transgender Pride Awards," presented by The TG Steering Committee. Free. 6:30-9pm. Ceremonial Room (4th floor), SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 476-2364.

'That's So Gay' @ Cellspace

Opening reception: The members of the COLAGE Youth Leadership and Action Program present "That's So Gay: Art by Youth with LGBT Parents," the first-ever art exhibit and awareness poster campaign created entirely by youth with LGBT parents and families, including Marina Gatto, a Grand Marshal of the 2003 SF LGBT Pride Parade. Free. 6:30-8:30. Cellspace Gallery, 2050 Bryant St. Info: Meredith Fenton at 861-5437 x.102; email: Meredith@colage.org

'Brother Outsider' party

@ Atelier Gallery

Benefit Party: Celebrate the screening of *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin* (SFILGFF entry, Castro Theater, 6:30pm) and Rustin's vision of justice and equality. Poet/novelist Jewelle Gomez emcees, with special guests, music, food. *Brother Outsider* is a film by Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer; Veronica Selver and Rhonda Collins, Editors; Bobby Shepard, Cinematographer; Miru Chandra, Co-Producer; Sam Pollard, Executive Producer. 9-11 pm Atelier Gallery, 2354 Market St. Info: www.rustin.org; or aboutface.cc

Tom Bianchi @ EROS

Artist reception: Photographer Tom Bianchi shows images from his latest book, *On the Couch*, capturing masculine beauty and sensuality as his handsome models reveal their passion in solos, duos and groups. 7pm. 2051 Market St. Info: Steve Gaynes, 255-4921.

Tue 24

'Viva Variety 23'

@ Buriel Clay Theatre

Steve Murray hosts "Viva Variety 23," starring Spencer Day (cabaret vocalist/pianist); Patsy Cline (vocalist); Rusty Hips (drag king extraordinaire); Chantal (comedy); Alexis Harte and Adrian West (original music); Fred Anderson (juggler); Cast of "When Pigs Fly" (theatre); Kevin Dozier (vocalist); Velocity Circus' Mina (dance percussionist from "Stomp"); James Judd (comedy); and Peggy L'Egg (performance art). \$15 adv. (credit card); \$18 door. 8pm. Buriel Clay Theatre, Afro-American Art & Cultural Center, 762 Fulton St. (at Webster; parking available). Tix: 863-0741 ext. #2. Info: makeitsoproductions.com

Lady Bunny @ The Stud

"Trannyshack" and Heklina welcome guest hostess Lady Bunny, renowned for founding, organizing and emceeing the long-running annual drag-fest "Wigstock," who has worked with such stars as Deborah Harry, De-Lite, RuPaul, and Hedwig. She starred in HBO's 1997 *Dragtime* and the cult classics *To Wong Foo* and *Party Girl*, and was featured in an A&E documentary on Big Hair. DJ Pinky Ring spins; Miss Chocolate works the door. Expect the Stud to be packed! Drag encouraged. \$8. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). The Stud, 9th & Harrison.

Reverend Michel
@ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute reception and show: "Reverend Michel St. Germain: Ordained Minister and Photographer to San Francisco's Bohemian Underground." The Rev. Michel has digitally documented SF's queer underground including Trannyshack, street fairs, bands (Pepperspray, Pansy Division, Blue Period), etc. \$10-\$15 sliding. 7pm reception; 8pm show. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

'American Cabaret with Pride' @ The Green Room

The SF Academy for the Performing Arts (SFAPA), and The Sons of the American Legion Squadron of Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post 448 (a predominantly gay/lesbian post), present "An American Cabaret Songbook with Pride," hosted by Richard Nickol and John Caldera as a fundraiser for both groups. Entertainment by Nickol (founder/director of SFAPA), singer-songwriter Kim Kuzma, the Aquanettes, Sean Bart, Jennifer Cantoma, Maye Cavalier, Tracy Chiappone, Jeffrey Chin, Coley and the Colettes, Tami Dahbura, Kevin Dozier, Joshua Finkel, John Florencio, Kristy Frank, Sony Holland, Becky Jones, The Kitchenettes, Kim Kuzma, Barry Lloyd, John McCullough, Mark Miller, Tammy Nelson, Bruce Phillips, Shaynee Rainbolt, Brenda Reed, Don Tattro, Erwin Uri and Lisa Viggiano. \$20 adv; \$25 door. 7-11pm (show starts 7:30pm). Tix: All American Boy, 463 Castro St.; 861-0444.

'Latinas Lesbians'
@ The Center

NQAF Event: "Latinas Lesbians," a film and round-table discussion focusing on the intersections between

race/ethnicity and sexual identity in the lives of three Latinas — two Puerto Rican immigrants and one Cuban American. It explores how these categories are constructed, and what it means to be a lesbian while being Latina, and vice versa. \$5. 8pm. Rainbow Room, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Tix/info: 334-0722; queerculturalcenter.org

Wed 25

'Behind the Make Up'
@ The Center

Get a look under the makeup and wigs at the real identities behind Heklina and Lady Bunny. Experience them unplugged in "Behind the Make Up," hosted by Kevin Taffy Jane (Harvey Milk Institute Dean Kevin Schaub). \$10-\$15 sliding, 7pm reception; 8pm show. SF GLBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

Thu 26

Murray Hill & Wau-Wau Sisters @ SomArts Theater

NQAF Event: "Three Sheets to the Wind," featuring New York City's reigning alternative nightife icons Murray Hill and the Wau-Wau Sisters in a night of cheesy songs, irrepressible shtick, death-defying trapeze routines in skimpy outfits, electric guitars, and other nonsense. \$12 adv; \$15 door. 8pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 334-0722; queerculturalcenter.org

LAVA's 'High Tide'

@ Dance Mission Theater

NQAF Event: From New York City comes "High Tide," a show of acrobatics, intimate partnering, singing, talking and dancing, about love, velocity and abstract art, inspired by Niagara Falls, saturated colors, and the importance of conflict resolution. Co-presented by Dance Brigade. \$17 adv; \$20 door (\$10 under 12). 8pm. Also June 27, 28 (10pm) & 29 (7pm). 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 273-4633; www.dancemission.com

Pepperspray & The Woodyz
@ The Eagle Tavern

"Thursday Night Live" presents Pepperspray, SF's reigning queens of punk rock, teaming up with The Woodyz, the Bay Area's drag king high-camp 50's revue. Also: My Best Friend's Girlfriend, a Cars cover band comprised of fierce local rock luminaries. This is the Pride show to see! Happy birthday to Doug! \$5 cover. Show at 9pm. 398 12th St. Info: 431-8422; www.thewoodyz.com; www.peppersprayband.com

The Pointer Sisters
@ Congregation'

"Congregation" at mezzanine, under the guidance of DJ David Harness, welcomes The Pointer Sisters — Bonnie and June — together again spreading the good R&B vibe made famous in their illustrious 30-year singing career marked by numerous Top Ten hits, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and a Grammy Award, in addition to roles in the cult hit movie *Car Wash*. Bonnie left her siblings in 1976 to embark on a solo career, and made the disco classic "Heaven Must Have Sent You." Younger sister June can be heard on the hits "Jump (For My Love)" and "He's So Shy." \$7 door only. Happy hour 5-8pm; DJ Harness spins 9pm; Pointer Sisters at midnight. mezzanine, 444 Jessie St. Tix: 820-9669; www.mezzaninesf.com

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
 Bay Area Reporter
 395 Ninth Street
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Sir/boy chosen at RRR

Philip Linder and Roger Hunt take titles

by Mister Marcus

The race for the International Leather Sir and boy titles is off and running. Last weekend, the Northeast Regional contest took place in New York City on Friday, June 13, and Bob Forbes of Albany, New York took the second regional Sir title, and boy Andy Fischman of New York City took the win to become the Northeast Leather boy. They advance to the finals in Florida in October.

In Northern California, the Russian River Leather Sir and boy contest took place on a balmy night in the patio of the Russian River Resort (also known as the Triple R). In that competition, Philip Linder emerged as Russian River Leather Sir, and boy Roger Hunt was chosen Russian River Leather boy. They will compete for the Northern California Leather Sir/boy titles again at the Russian River the weekend of August 1-3.

Graylin Thornton and Tony Koester did a great job emceeing the contest. Their verbal sparring throughout the proceedings had the huge audience in stitches and yes, there were a lot of leather women on hand for the event.

The next Northern California contest takes place this coming weekend when the Sacramento Leather Sir/boy competition to be held at the Bolt in the state capitol on Saturday, June 21. The action begins around 2200, so if you are in the vicinity, be sure to stop in.

The regional contests around the country will be coming your way from coast to coast in the coming weeks, so stay tuned for all the results right here.

Time for gay pride

Gay and lesbian pride parades and celebrations are taking place from coast to coast this month, and they'll be whooping it up in Los Angeles this coming weekend. It's good to see that the leather communities of Southern California will enjoy prominent space in the festival area.

Here on the home front, the leather contingent is in high gear with a leather zone designated in the Civic Center for the celebration festivities, and a huge leather

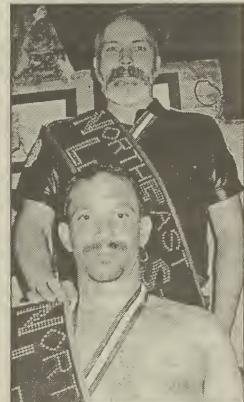


Roger Hunt, left, was named Russian River Leather boy 2003 and Philip Linder was named Russian River Leather Sir 2003 at the Triple R in Guerneville last Saturday, June 14. They both advance to compete at the No. Calif Leather Sir/boy contest the weekend of Aug. 1-3 in Guerneville.

marching and motorcycle contingent in the parade. Sal Hopkins is being honored as the leather contingent's Grand Marshal. The 2004 SoMa Bare Chest Calendar float is being put together even as you read this, and Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet will narrate the parade on KRON (Channel 4) for the television audience.

Be sure to catch the action on the Main Stage when the winners of the Pride Idol competition will perform for you. The finals at Club mezzanine took place last night — too late for my Monday deadline, so you'll have to wait to see who won in the finals.

There's a lot more coming your way in the next few weeks, so if you want to be up to date here and news from other columnists around the country, click on www.LeatherPage.com. ▼



Bob Forbes of Albany, New York is the Northeast Leather Sir 2003, and Andy Fischman New York City is Northeast Leather boy 2003. They were chosen on their lucky day: Friday, June 13.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, June 19

Live wrestling at the Powerhouse Bar around 2200 tonight. Be sure to catch this hot, sweaty action and better yet, join in!

Friday, June 20

The Exiles of SF gather at the Women's Building tonight when the doors open at 1930 and the program begins at 2000 with "Estrella" giving you the scoop on "Resistance Play and Rape." The cover charge is \$6 for guests and \$3 for members, and the event is ASL interpreted.

Weekend, June 20-21

Eastern Canada Leather Sir and boy contest in Toronto at the Black Eagle. For info, click on www.blackeagletoronto.com.

Saturday, June 21

Sacramento Leather Sir and boy competition begins at 2200 at the Bolt Bar in Sacramento. If you're in the vicinity, this is where the action will be!

Sunday, June 22

It's the 7th Annual Folsom Street East fair in Manhattan at 13th Street & 9th Avenue. This one benefits, NCSF, LGBT Center and GMSMA. For more info: www.folsomstreet.org.

Wednesday, June 25

Leather Buddies gather at 933 Harrison for madness and mayhem. STRICT dress code enforced. No white sneakers, no cologne. Leather, levi, latex, uniform gear gladly welcome. 777-HEAD.

Friday, June 27

Phoenix Uniform Club's 26th annual Leather Uniform Ball in the Green Room of the War Memorial Bldg., Van Ness Ave. & McAllister. \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door. Click on: www.sphoenixuniformclub.com.

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band play the 25th Annual Pride Concert at Mission High School. Tickets are \$20 adv/\$25 door. Call 865-3650 or click on www.sfgmc.org

PORN

Call of the wild

by John F. Karr

Pornspotting in the GL Film Festival is all well and good, but how about some outright porn? I wondered: If I were in charge, what would I show?

Well, an entire festival of erotic movies could be successfully mounted solely with titles from Titan Media and Raging Stallion Studios. Both companies are consistently distinguished by the finest videography, editing and musical scoring in the industry, and, more importantly, by the fully-rounded picture of adult men's sexuality they represent.

Theirs is a strongly masculine world of sportive mansex, celebrated by guys who have hair on their chests and the full-tilt swagger of sweaty sexuality in their hearts as well as their groins. While capitalizing on forays into obsession and fetish, neither company neglects our romantic yearnings. In other words, their films are as excellently well-rounded in content as they are in execution. Serving all your moods, they offer a porno boon: one-stop shopping.



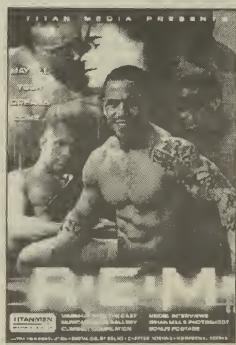
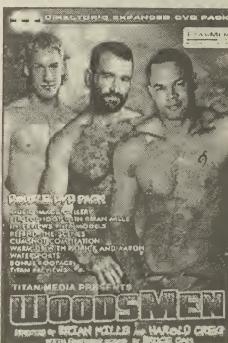
Karnal Knowledge

the even more powerfully immediate and emotional encore he provides here. Sequestered in a secluded mountain cabin with his lover, Dragon's body falls effusively into Jon Galt's arms, his face falls giddily into Galt's furry ass, and his godly gauger falls forcefully into the strangling grip of Galt's won't-let-go asshole. What a sweaty and happily exhausting ride this is.

The movie's conclusion finds huskily hung Carlos Morales flycasting in a nearby stream and hooking up with newcomer Parker Williams, an unshaven, dirty blond with a dirty way of making out (and

on the double-DVD's bonus disk, along with some watersports and other goodies, there's an interview with Morales that reveals an ingratiating charm that his onscreen persona typically masks).

In the movie's two middle scenes, we meet a mixed-race hunk o' muscle named Ben Jakks (think of Falcon's Matthew Rush played by a man) and then a strikingly sturdy and frequently smiling blond named Chris Brady. Jakks is well-served in his debut, while the splendor Brady will be displaying next time out is only hinted at in a scene not as strong as its surrounding companions.



Titan's most extroverted, masculine style is exemplified by *Woodsmen*, which is dedicated to the proposition that all men like to fuck in the woods. The High Sierras are an invigorating backdrop, and along with the soothing sounds of splashing streams and the pine trees rustling their needles beneath the giant Sequoias, you can almost hear the gristle as it thickens. Why, it's just that ole call of the wild that makes the men's earnest desire blossom so big and bright.

Woodsmen is book-ended by two scenes which are stuck on replay *chez moi*. If you liked the butch, bearded and steel-boomered Ray Dragon in the return to porn he made in *Gorge*, wait'll you see

Eye spy

R.E.M. never falters as it explores the fantasies that flicker behind the Rapid Eye Movements of four dreamers. The highlight of *R.E.M.* for me is an achingly languid bout of lovemaking in which the deluxe simmer of lean Sean Paris draws out the finest from heavenly daddy Patrick Knight, a scene that climaxes with a surprise turnabout of roles. Creamy young Josh O'Hara lets loose a startling barrage of yelps and yowls when heartily banged by caramel-colored Brock Webster, and Carlos Marquez, a compact bit of tat-

tooed Latino muscle, plays a waiter served up on a giant platter to diner Dirk Lang, a dangerously intentioned German who leaves not a scrap of Marquez' too, too solid flesh undevoured. Finally, in a Gothic-inspired fantasy, copiously foreskinned Andreas taunts spicy Oscar Leon with a crop before demolishing his gates with a battering ram of monstrous proportion. Elegantly made and unceasingly arousing, the nocturnal moods of *R.E.M.* will wake you up.



My personal favorite of today's Titan trio, the tightly packed *Exhibition* comes with just the sort of tagline I'd like to take credit for: "Art's not the only thing in a gallery that's hung." Eight of the most beautiful cocks you're going to see in one movie are featured here. Three episodes of *Exhibition* make us privy to the backstories of a gallery's erotic photographs, and the finale shows us what happens when the art proves too arousing for its viewers. First up is an amazing three-quarter-hour scene which is the absolute apotheosis for study star Trent Cougar, who appears without leather or ramped up machismo to uncharacteristically play bottom to a fierce, exotically tattooed Gil Cortez. Then, in a novel industrialized dungeon setting, blonde knock-out Chris Brady attains star status when torn apart by Alex Leon. Did ever a hunky star fill a jockstrap so bulgingly as Brady? Golden boy Josh O'Hara has some masterful lovin' slammed into him by golden man Patrick Knight, and topping off the movie, man-eater Dred Scott tangles with the last word in thick-bodied, meaty-dicked and warmly-furred daddies, Ray Stone. Watch *Exhibition*, and see if you don't agree that Titan movies — sparse of plot, redolent of mood, and with expertly matched pairings — are the most handsomely made porn on the market. ▼

www.TitanMen.com; (800) 360-7240

Out There

◀ page 34

June 24, at 11 p.m.

Nature corner

Attention, our friends in the park service: A large redwood tree has fallen, spectacularly, into the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. It blocks not only the main path but also handicapped access at the Grove's main entrance. Memo to butch ranger thangs: Get to it with your power tools!

Saints alive

In a news release from Catholic League for Religious and Civil

Rights with the catchy headline, "Jewish Gay Agnostic Hero Made a Saint," San Francisco's Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History's *Saint Harvey [Milk]* exhibit continues to make waves — with the pious!

Included in the exhibit is a portrait of Milk by Robert Lentz. It pictures Milk with a halo behind his head, holding a lit candle. Catholic League president William Donohue has a litany of choice words for the portrait: "It is a tribute, however backhanded, to Roman Catholicism that gay activists in San Francisco would choose to honor their slain Jewish, homosexual, agnostic martyr by cribbing from Catholic iconography

[italics ours].

"Bereft of sacred imagery in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, it was only logical to turn to Catholicism for help," Donohue goes on. "Hopefully, those involved in this tribute will now look more closely at what Catholicism has to offer in other areas as well."

We know some radical faeries who would beg to differ about a dearth of sacred imagery (and ritual!) in the LGBT community. Not to mention Dignity and the other gay religious groups. But we never try to get into it with someone who has God on their side, as it usually ends up badly for all concerned. ▼

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- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

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PARTING GLANCES

J-Church 4:45pm On Wednesdays 5/28
We stared; never said hello. You retrieved to organizer; I was struck by your intense eyes. Me: black cap, shorts, backpack, sunburnt. You: dark grey suit, palm pilot. Coffee? ☎ 72620

Jeff Eagle Tavern 3/26
Looking 4 Jeff my one time partner in fighting crime. Enjoyed meeting you. Have thought of you often. You left last impressing. B. ☎ 72621

You Looked At Me At Gas-Station Hercules, June 4. I am tall Black cute guy. You, White cute guy. Bring 2 coffee & donut. I wish to meet you, but no time! Write me soon! ☎ 72628

Friday 6/6 At 24hr Van Ness
After a workout, an "Angel" met a "Saint", but didn't ask for your number. Hope you come by Friday again. Would love to play. ☎ 72639

Fri 6/6 At 24hr Van Ness

After a workout, an "Angel" met a "Saint", but didn't ask for your number. Hope you come by Friday again. Would love to play. ☎ 72639

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Hot Brazilian Looking 4 Lover
Want nice White man for friendship and more. I am 38, 142lbs. Like movies, soft drinks, professional, simple and romantic. Will make your dreams come true. "under 40 please!". ☎ 72596

Muscular Italian Amer Seeks Asian
Works out 4 days/week, cultured, passionate, honest 44yrs wishes to date on regular basis, a smooth, muscular Asian, poss. longterm relationship. Pls be serious, honest, stable. No games/flakes. ☎ 72622

I Am 5'5", Asian, 205lbs, 34, Friendly
Seeking chubs-cubs, bears and chasers in the Bay Area for ltr or friendship. You must be 250lbs+, cute, handsome, nice, and chubby. Please do, and thanks. ☎ 72623

Looking For A Man To Love!!
I am Italian, 5'11", 180, HIV+, looking to share my life with that special man. You are 45-60 looking for the same thing. Serious only. Let's meet. ☎ 72624

Useless, Old, Ugly, And Broke. But
Really good in bed. (What's more important?) Horny, healthy, clean senior (68) G.W. top needs for bi w. masculine bottom. ☎ 72625

GWM 39, 6', 160, 41c, 30w, Buzzed Silver, bright blues, heart warming smile, healthy HIV+, aggressively passive, rugged good looks, brightly charming and creative with extraordinary domestic abilities ISO an older, fuzzy, nurturing, strong, handsome man for a live in, life long, passion filled relationship of majestic proportions... I am into red wine, green grass, old wooden sailboats and slow comfortable men... Wanna be a hero...? ☎ 72640

WM 27, 5'10", 145lbs Smooth Slim Brn It brn seeks WL men, hairy, muscular, bearded, moustache, masculine, top for rough housing, fast pounding fun, outdoors, cars, talk, etc. ☎ 72641

Sweet Husky Hot Huggable
GWM, HIV-, 40s, 5'9", s&p/blue. ISO GWM or GHM, HIV-, 38-50, enjoys dining out, music, massage, cuddling for friendship or possible ltr. ☎ 72642

SEEKING ADVENTURE

"Trangender"
I'm big and lovely. Large big tits and dick to suck. You any age 18 to 50 that can do what I say. ☎ 72603

Mellow, Mature Black Gentleman
Would like to meet a mature male with a husky build and moustache for good times. I'm 49, 5'9", 180, thinning hair, moustache, endowed. Downtown Oakland/SF areas. ☎ 72597

Straight White Men!
For straight-looking gay guys wanted for fun sex to watch video's, j.o., 69, etc. If hung a plus. Call me. ☎ 72598

Gay Male Nude Photo Models
Mature (60s) GWM photographer is seeking hot and hunky GWM, GAM, GLM, 25 to 60, to pose for nude, sexy and erotic photos. Let me put you in pictures! ☎ 72599

Long Black Or Latin Uncut Top
Wanted by GWM 42, 61, 195#, 8"cut for 69, watching porn, getting fucked and do me dogie style. ☎ 72601

"Desires"
Goodlooking man 50" large chest, large round 50g nipples to suck on and a 9 1/2 to 10" and 7 1/2"round dick to be fuck by you 18 to 30. ☎ 72602

Smooth Slim Group Cock Wanted
In shape 6'1", 190lb, German Italian, male seeks a group of smooth, slender men or T.G.'s. Let's get together so that you can take turns fucking me. ☎ 72604

Hung And Sexy Hispanic Guys
Needed. For f/m sex, j.o., 69, to watch video's etc. If hung "8" "9" "10" great if hung smaller o.k., but call me! ☎ 72606

Batter Up!!
WM 38 5'10", 190lb, blond/blue muscular guy seeks field club dates for Giants games. Zagat-rated meal before or after is a plus- call anytime. ☎ 72626

Big Chubby Men
Top Bi Bear, 43, 5'9", 220, bearded, hairy, like big chubby men 30+, 225lbs+, for luncheon/daytime meetings. Am French p/a, Greek active, HIV-. Also like jo, being watched. ☎ 72627

Need Experienced Butt Fucker
Goodlooking w/bi curious w/virgin hole seeks w/a smooth clean shaven to pound me w/your cock turn me totally queer make me your bitch seriously only. ☎ 72628

Down On Your Knees
Look me in the eyes while I stick my nice cut dick in your face. Dominant verbal guy 44 with lean build wants another tight lean bodied submissive guy 18 to 40's for fun role play. S. ☎ 72629

Slim Smooth Group Cock Wanted'
This 6'1", 190lb, German, Italian, W/M. Is seeking a group of smooth, slender, hung guys to take turns fucking me. ☎ 72630

Black/White XXX-Rated Fun
GWM 49 masculine goodlooking hung and very sexual seeks GBM for nude beaches, camping, outdoor sex and baths. Me fit, healthy, top total and shaved. We are both very uninhibited. ☎ 72631

East Bay Gay Master
Seeks straight slaves. I'll give you what your wife/girlfriend wont. Novices welcome. Your limits respected. Discreet, sage and versatile. ☎ 72632

Handsome Muscular Asian
GAM, 38, 5'10", 175lb, masculine, HIV negative (u be too) New to SF. Looking for friendship or more with creative, intelligent, mature, passionate man. ☎ 72633

Expert Rimming For Hours*
Really! GWM, late 30s, athletic, w/ well trained tongue! Your cock can be handled as well. Couples welcome. No reciprocation. Age, looks, unimportant. Be clean. ☎ 72646

Play safe. Wear a condom. ☎ SAFE

GA Seeking GWM
38 years old GA looking for GM to service. I'm HIV- looking doesn't matter. You have to be you. ☎ 72634

European Guys Wanted...
I'm looking for guys from France, Italy, Spain, Germany and other European countries for fun, j.o. see video's, etc. ☎ 72643

48 Gym HIV pos Smoker 6'2" 200lbs
Seeks gym lover 50-70 smokes HIV+ hair and moustache, uncultured well endowed and very hairy for sex and good times. ☎ 72644

Hot Brazilian Guys Wanted!
I'm looking for Brazilian guys who are hung "8", 9 or 10 or more for j.o. to watch video's, oral work, sex, and fun. ☎ 72645

Mature Masculine Submissive...
Seek dominant top for BDSM play experienced imaginative a plus. ☎ 72600

Party, Party, Party! Let's Get Together and party. I kick back-hung "9". I give oral service, 69, watch video's, oral work, if hung a plus. ☎ 72647

Hispanic Lover Man
(Oh, where can I find him?) Hispanic guys hung "8", 9, or 10, wanted for j.o., 69, or sex to watch video's, oral service, fun, etc. ☎ 72648

Nice Bottom Oakland Boy
Nice boy looking for Oakland top's 5'10", 165 smooth, nice bubble butt call me. ☎ 72605

Straight White Men!
Straight guys, bi-curious, or straight-looking gay guys wanted for fun, j.o., watch video's, oral work, if hung a plus. ☎ 72649

FETISHES

Scat Pig Looking For Someone
Who makes me their 24/7 toilet (pis is here nor there). I'm into hard shit! If interested, call me... Make me your public and private toilet! ☎ 72607

Pretty Boys Threesome Ravish Me bi-HM, ss, ISO of pretty-boys (21-30 only) for threesome. Young very femme tight asses. Pretty lips. 69-suck/fuck. Cigar-smokers. No drugs/alcohol. ☎ 72608

I'm Seeking A Guy With Huge Nipples
I'm muscular, work-out 4 days/ week wanting to satisfy your huge protruding thick nipples. I guarantee my mouth will satisfy you! Pls be serious and have huge nipples. ☎ 72635

Dirty-Minded Old Men
I'm a WM, 6', 165lbs, dk hr, 47yo. I enjoy servicing older/senior men who have racy-smelling crotches & butts. I'm also interested in exploring cock cheese, spit, scat, & other kinky scenes. Not into S&M, B&D, pain or gay scenes. ☎ 72636

Sexy Showoff Into Fetishwear
Hot GWM with great body ISO into wearing sexy fetishwear. I have a great collection and wild imagination. Looking for hot guys into spandex, leather g-strings and more! ☎ 72637

Still Seeking Turd Master 24/7
Please respond. Thank you! ☎ 72650

OTHERS

Seeking Cycle Touring Buddy
GWM sees road cycle touring buddy for Northern California area. Three and four day trips to lakes and nude retreats. Also bike up to Russian River and Rancho Cicada for nude sun bathing. ☎ 72651

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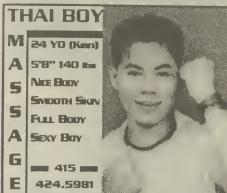
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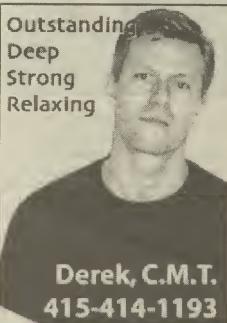
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E26

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Masc, hairy, 195, 5'11", 45, moist. M-F aft 5, w/e OK-Rix/Table/Oil
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E28

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E29

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E28

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E31

MASSAGE BY HOT ASIAN
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E27

CUTE MASSEUR 225-4081
5'9" 145Lbs. 30stw fit Slim/Smooth
Blond/Brown eyes. SF/Marin. In/Out.
Have table.

E25

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E25

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E27

Touch Me All Over/X-Rated Rub by Hot Nudist/Ken/346-4966/\$80

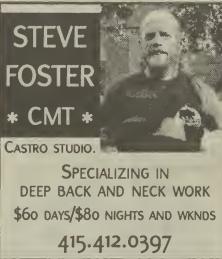
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E26



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Sensual Swedish, Full-body massage by very friendly intuitive gdlkgng CMT Private, warm, relaxing studio with all amenities: \$50/Hr, \$65/90min Call Del 415-722-1406 Email: del1651@hotmail.com

E25

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\$40wkdays \$60eves + wknd 412-0397

E25

JIM IS BACK!

After 1 yr - warm, gentle EastBay guy gives nude erotic fullbody massage. All eves & All day Sat/Sun/Mon. \$40/Hr Jim 510-527-7630.

E28

Strong, Sensual - Full body massage by tall, hung, handsome Latino. Call Sergio 415-225-4963.

E26

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Unique style therapeutic and erotic massage in front of a fireplace. Out calls available also. Johnny 505-3060

E27

MASSAGE BY DANIEL

Sensual & Relaxing. Serving Mid-South Bay Area. Eves/Weekends Only. CALL FOR DETAILS 650 248-8485

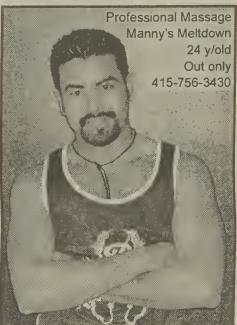
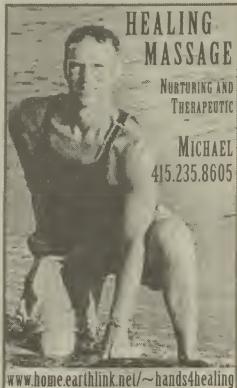
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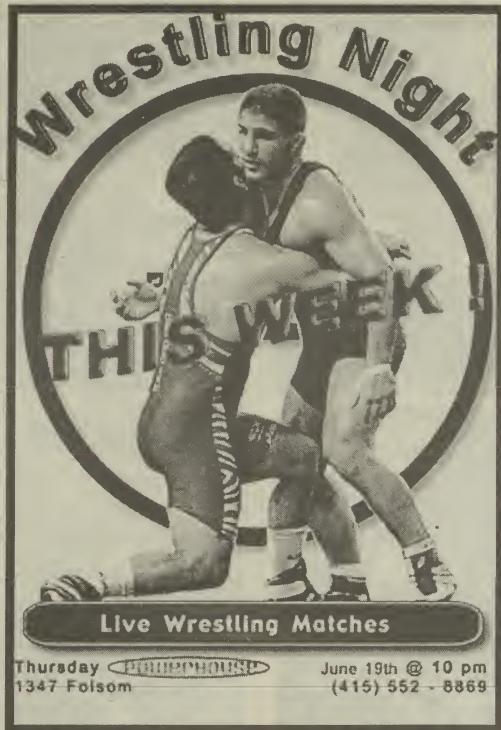
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